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NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST OFFICIAL
OPCW BIOMEDICAL PROFICIENCY TEST**

1. The Director-General wishes to inform the Member States of the results of the First Official OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Test, which was conducted by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) from February to June 2016. The test was conducted according to the following quality management system documents:
 - (a) “Standard Operating Procedure for the Organisation of OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/SOP/BioPT01 (Issue 1, Revision 0, dated 25 January 2016));
 - (b) “Work Instruction for the Preparation of Samples for OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/BioPT02 (Issue 1, Revision 0, dated 25 January 2016));
 - (c) “Work Instruction for the Evaluation of Results of OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/BioPT03 (Issue 1, Revision 0, dated 25 January 2016)); and
 - (d) “Work Instruction for the Reporting of the Results of the OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Tests” (QDOC/LAB/WI/BioPT04 (Issue 1, Revision 0, dated 25 January 2016)).
2. Designated laboratories must, in order to retain their designation, demonstrate that they have maintained their capabilities participating in every biomedical proficiency test organised by the Secretariat unless the additional guidelines in decision C-20/DEC.4 (dated 2 December 2015) are applicable.
3. The OPCW Laboratory prepared the test samples and sent them to the test participants nominated by the Member States. Subsequently, the OPCW Laboratory evaluated the test reports received from the participants.
4. The preliminary evaluation report was discussed at a meeting between Secretariat staff and the test participants on 25 and 26 May 2016. The participants were given two weeks to comment on the results and to inform the Secretariat whether they accepted their performance evaluation.
5. The final evaluation report was prepared by the OPCW Laboratory on 12 July 2016.



6. The principal results of the First Official OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Test can be summarised as follows:
 - (a) Twenty-two Member States nominated 26 laboratories for the test participation.
 - (b) Three laboratories participated on a trial basis.
 - (c) All test participants submitted their test analysis report within the test period.
 - (d) Seventeen test participants identified and reported, with sufficient analytical data, all of the five spiked chemicals and received a score of A.
 - (e) One test participant identified and reported four out of the five spiked chemicals with sufficient analytical data and received a score of B.
 - (f) No scores were given to the three trial participants.
 - (g) There are 17 As, one B, and five Ds in the test scores for the regular participants.
7. The final results for all of the laboratories participating in the test are presented in the table annexed hereto.
8. The participating laboratories are reminded that if they have made any errors or reported false positives or false negatives (arising from a failure to find a spiking chemical or to provide sufficient supporting data for a chemical that is found), they should take immediate remedial action. Before participating in the next test, each such laboratory is required to submit a detailed follow-up report to the Secretariat stating the cause of the problem and any remedial action it has taken. Any such laboratory failing to submit the required report, including details of the remedial action it has taken, will not be permitted to participate in the next biomedical proficiency test.

Annex: Final Results of the First Official OPCW Biomedical Proficiency Test

Annex

**FINAL RESULTS OF THE FIRST OFFICIAL
OPCW BIOMEDICAL PROFICIENCY TEST**

| Laboratory (Participant Code) | No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹ | No. of Chemicals Scored | Rating | Comments |
|--|--|--|---------------|--|
| Australia Defence Science and Technology Group (05) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Brazil Centro Tecnológico do Exército CTEEx. (22) | | | # | Trial participation |
| China Laboratory of Toxicant Analysis, Academy of Military Medical Sciences (06) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| China Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry, Research Institute of Chemical Defence (23) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Czech Republic Katedra toxikologie a vojenska farmacie (20) | 3 | 2 | D | Spiking chemicals B and C were not reported; insufficient data reported for the spiking chemical A |
| Finland Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) (02) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| France DGA Maîtrise NRBC, Département d'analyses chimiques (04) | 5 | 5 | A | - |

¹ The spiking chemicals were as follows:
Sample U₁₁₁: (A): Thiodiglycol
Samples U₁₁₂ and U₁₁₃: (B) and (C): 1,1'-sulfonylbis[2-(methylsulfinyl)ethane]
Samples P₁₁₄ and P₁₁₆: (D) and (E): Bis(2-chloroethyl)sulfide

| Laboratory (Participant Code) | No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹ | No. of Chemicals Scored | Rating | Comments |
|---|--|--|---------------|--|
| Germany Bundeswehr Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology (12) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Hungary Hungarian Defence Forces Medical Centre (18) | 3 | 1 | D | Spiking chemicals D and E were not reported; insufficient data reported for the spiking chemicals B and C |
| India Vertex-Biochemistry Division, Defence Research and Development Establishment (11) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) Defense Chemical Research Laboratory (03) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Japan National Research Institute of Police Science (10) | 3 | 2 | D | Spiking chemicals B and C were not reported; insufficient data reported for the spiking chemical A |
| Malaysia Department of Chemistry (14) | 3 | 1 | D | Spiking chemicals B and C were not reported; insufficient data reported for the spiking chemicals D and E |
| Netherlands TNO Defence, Safety and Security (08) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Republic of Korea Chemical Analysis Laboratory, CB Department, Agency for Defence Development (24) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Russian Federation Laboratory for the Chemical and Analytical Control of Military Research Centre (09) | 5 | 5 | A | - |

| Laboratory (Participant Code) | No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹ | No. of Chemicals Scored | Rating | Comments |
|---|--|--|---------------|---|
| Russian Federation Laboratory of Chemical Analytical Control and Biotesting, "Research Institute of Hygiene, Occupational Pathology and Human Ecology" (15) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Singapore Verification Laboratory, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories (25) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| South Africa Protechnik Laboratories, a division of Armscor Defence Institutes (Pty) Ltd. (27) | | | # | Trial participation |
| Spain Laboratorio de Verificación de Armas Químicas (LAVEMA), Instituto Tecnológico "La Marañosa" (30) | | | # | Trial participation |
| Sweden Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), CBRN Defence and Security (16) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| Turkey GATA Department of Medical CBRN Defence, Analysis and Research Laboratory (19) | 0 | 0 | D | Spiking chemicals A, B, C, D, and E were not reported |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Chemical and Biological Systems, Porton Down (07) | 5 | 5 | A | - |

| Laboratory (Participant Code) | No. of Spiking Chemicals Reported¹ | No. of Chemicals Scored | Rating | Comments |
|---|--|--|---------------|--|
| United States of America Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (17) | 4 | 4 | B | Spiking chemical A was not reported |
| United States of America Edgewood Chemical and Biological Forensic Analytical Center (01) | 5 | 5 | A | - |
| United States of America Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (26) | 5 | 5 | A | - |