

REFERENCE: ODA-2025-00013

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution [42/37](#) (C), adopted on 30 November 1987, entitled “Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons convention.” In operative paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to compile and maintain lists of experts provided by Member States at short notice to undertake investigations of alleged use of chemical, biological and toxin (CBT) weapons and of laboratories with the capability to undertake testing for the presence of such CBT agents.

The last request for nominations for the United Nations Secretary-General’s Mechanism (UNSGM) was made by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General, in a letter sent on 9 December 2024 to all Member States (ODA-2024-00032), requesting nominations of qualified experts and laboratories, particularly in the biological area. There remains a continuous need to update the Secretary-General’s roster of experts and laboratories to ensure their readiness when an investigation is triggered.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs would, therefore, be grateful if Member States could communicate new or updated nominations of qualified experts and laboratories for investigations of alleged use of CBT weapons. Appendix IV of the Guidelines and Procedures for the Timely and Efficient Investigation of Reports of the Possible Use of Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) or Toxin Weapons ([A/44/561](#)), updated in 2007, lists principal areas of expertise for experts. The updated Appendix V lists the diagnostic and analytical laboratory specializations. However, neither Appendix is exhaustive nor exclusive. Appendix II lists information to be provided by Member States when proposing experts and Appendix VI lists information to be provided when proposing laboratories. The four appendices are attached.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs would particularly welcome the nominations of qualified experts with relevant, tangible experience in one or more of the following areas: evidence and investigation data management and documentation, such as crime scene photography and recording; forensic sciences; investigative interviewing; law enforcement, as well as relevant life science disciplines, including specialists in the area of plant pests, advanced sequencing technology, synthetic biology, artificial intelligence, experts for modelling and epidemiology, biological toxins.

In addition, and in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines and Procedures, the Office for Disarmament Affairs would also welcome the nomination of expert consultants, in CBT areas, who would advise and assist the Secretary-General in the relevant legal, scientific, military, logistical and other questions related to reports of alleged use, including those mentioned above. Experts can also be nominated for both categories, as expert consultant and qualified expert, at the same time.

In communicating new or updated nominations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs would be grateful if Member States could also review their existing nominations with a view to reaffirming their continued status as nominees or removing those that are no longer active and thus no longer considered to be nominees. The Office for Disarmament Affairs would like to inform Member States that it conducted, in September 2025, a ‘call-out’ exercise for experts currently on the roster to ascertain their continued availability as experts. Results of this exercise can be shared with the nominating Member States upon request.

In addition to nominating qualified experts, analytical laboratories and expert consultants, Member States are welcome to optionally nominate national points of contacts for the UNSGM.

The nomination of female qualified experts/expert consultants is particularly encouraged.

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Member States of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jm', located below the main text and above the date.

11 November 2025

Appendix II

Information to be provided by Member States when proposing experts

1. Name of expert.
2. Fields of expertise.
3. Current position.
4. Mailing address: Office and Home.
5. Telephone numbers, e-mail address, telex, telecopy or telefax.
6. Educational background. Attach curriculum vitae.
7. Relevant experience, particularly in the area of field investigations, including dates of relevant activities.
8. Relevant training and certifications in: 1) health and safety in a hazardous environment; 2) utilization of personal protective equipment; 3) packaging and transport of dangerous goods; and 4) field epidemiology training program.
9. Language proficiency.
10. Citizenship.
11. Availability of services on short notice; availability for extended periods of time.
12. 24-hour point of contact in country, including telephone, facsimile, and e-mail, if available, who can authorize deployment of the individual.
13. Certain health conditions may influence the advisability of deploying an expert to the field.
 - (a) Does the expert have any health conditions that would influence field deployment?

Yes or No

Prior to deployment as a qualified expert, the expert will be required to have their overall health status confirmed with a medical examination.

- (b) Relevant vaccination status.

Pre-deployment training:

Please note that the UN requires specific training (e.g., security training) prior to field deployment. Baseline training may be relatively brief (e.g., 2 1/2 hours), but additional training may be required. All training will be provided.

In the event of any change in the status in any of the above, the member state is required to notify the Secretary-General.

Individuals designated by Member States will be asked to accept a confidentiality agreement covering any activities conducted on behalf of the Secretary-General for the purposes of investigating the alleged use of CBT weapons.

Appendix IV

List of areas of expertise for experts

The following list describes the principal areas in which the Member States could designate experts in areas such as medicine, veterinary medicine, plant health, microbiology, chemistry, toxicology, and epidemiology. Where possible, Member States should designate experts who have acquired working experience in the field. In their fields of competence, these experts should be familiar with the effects of CBT agents and weapons and should be skilled at sample collection and preparation. They should also be able to conduct appropriate interviews.

1. Methodologies of in situ detection and analysis of CBT agents.
2. Evaluation of the effects of CBT weapons on humans, and any correlation between the effects and the identification of the types of CBT agent concerned. Desired skills include clinical toxicology, infectious disease medicine, microbiology, virology, and field epidemiology.
3. Evaluation of the effects of other types of weapons on humans.
4. Evaluation of the effects of CBT weapons on animals, and any correlation between the effects and the identification of the types of agent concerned. Desired skills include veterinary toxicology, infectious disease diagnostics, microbiology, field epidemiology, and virology.
5. Expertise in field investigation of human, animal, and plant disease.
6. Evaluation of the effects of CBT weapons on plants. Desired skills include plant pathology, plant microbiology, and plant virology.
7. Application of methods of diagnosing infectious diseases, if possible rapidly.
8. Conduct of autopsies and post-mortem sample-taking.
9. Determination of local medical and health conditions (with knowledge of conditions preceding the alleged use of CBT weapons).
10. Determination of local ecological conditions (including microbiological aspects).
11. Epidemiological investigation of an alleged use event.
12. Evaluation of the design and military use of CBT means of warfare.
13. Evaluation of the design and military use of non-CBT means of warfare.
14. Evaluation of the health and safety aspects of an investigation.
15. Evaluation and rendering safe of military and improvised explosive devices.
16. Expertise in forensics.

Appendix V

List of diagnostic and analytical laboratory specializations

The following list describes the principal areas in which the Member States could designate laboratories in areas such as toxicology, microbiology, and analytical chemistry. The designated laboratories should have adequate biosafety levels, containment, physical security and associated procedures to safeguard the dangerous pathogens and highly toxic chemicals likely to be involved in an investigation. In addition, the designated laboratories should have some or all of the following capabilities relevant to analyses on samples from an investigation.

1. Identification, in all the types of sample, of known chemical warfare agents, as well as their impurities and their degradation productions (and evaluation of quantities).
2. Identification and elucidation, in all the types of sample, of the structure of toxic agents, including those present in trace quantities (and evaluation of quantities).
3. Identification and characterization, in different kinds of samples, including clinical and environmental samples, of biological warfare agents (bacteria, viruses, others) and/or toxins.
4. Identification and characterization, in different kinds of samples, including clinical and environmental samples, of biological agents (bacteria, viruses, others) and/or toxins.
5. Evaluation of the effects of biological warfare agents and toxins, including epidemiological and ecological modelling.
6. Pathological and biochemical examination of organs and tissue taken from victims of CBT weapons, and where possible identification of the agent concerned.
7. Expertise in investigation and diagnosis of animal or plant diseases, which may include toxicology, pathology, microbiology, and epidemiology.
8. Examination and evaluation of munitions, munition components, and other military delivery devices, including all their technical specifications; analysis of explosives.

Appendix VI

Information to be provided by Member States when proposing diagnostic and analytical laboratories

1. Name of laboratory.
2. Point of contact for the laboratory.
3. Mailing address, and, if available, web address.
4. Telephone number(s) and e-mail.
5. Field(s) of expertise (See appendix IV).
6. Describe the level of containment and toxic handling capabilities of the laboratory. Give the biosafety level of the laboratory and describe the capabilities, to include staff competency, facilities, equipment, and, where applicable, permits to handle biological materials.
7. Relevant experience, including training and competencies of staff.
8. Specification of any particular requirements for preparation of samples.
9. Specification of any particular requirements or legal limitations with respect to customs or other inspections for the movement of samples for analysis, particularly for the requirements for the import of samples.
10. Specification of the number of samples able to accept and any fees and responsibilities for services carried out on behalf of the Secretary-General.
11. Quality management, assurance and control, including accreditation or certification (e.g., ISO/ IEC 17025, GLP, ISO 9001); international and national reference functions, and participation in international laboratory networks and/or inter- laboratory proficiency tests.
12. 24-hour point of contact in the Member State authorizing selection of the laboratory, including mailing address, telephone, facsimile, and e-mail address.

Laboratories designated by Member States will be asked to accept a confidentiality agreement covering any analysis conducted on behalf of the Secretary-General for the purposes of investigating the alleged use of CBT weapons.