

REFERENCE: ODA/2019-00285/SGM-Roster

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 conclusions 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 Office for Disarmament Affairs should therefore be grateful if Member States could communicate their nominations of qualified experts and laboratories for investigations of alleged use of CBT weapons. The 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 areas of expertise for experts; while the updated Appendix V lists the diagnostic and analytical laboratory specializations. Both appendices are attached.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs would particularly welcome the nominations of qualified experts in the following areas: evidence/investigation data management; civilian law enforcement with expertise in specialties such as forensic sciences, crime data analysis and investigative interviewing; health and safety (e.g. emergency medical technicians (EMT) and paramedics).

In communicating the 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their existing nominations with a view to reaffirming their continued status as nominees or removing those that are no longer active and thus no longer considered as nominees. The Office for Disarmament Affairs would like to inform Member States that it intends to conduct, in early 2020, a “call-out” exercise for experts currently on the roster to ascertain their continued availability as experts.

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 be capable of advising and assisting the Secretary-General in the relevant legal, scientific, military, logistical and other questions related to reports of alleged use.

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.

2 December 2019