



## **Fifth Swiss UNSGM Designated Laboratories Workshop**

11 - 13 September 2019, Spiez, Switzerland

The Guidelines to the United Nations Secretary-General's Mechanism for the Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons (UNSGM IAU CBW) indicate that UN Member States may designate analytical laboratories<sup>1</sup>. Designated laboratories would be tasked to analyse samples in support of such an investigation for the presence of chemical or biological agents and to report their findings to the Secretary-General<sup>2</sup>.

Switzerland<sup>3</sup> has so far organised four expert workshops<sup>4</sup> that have focused on how to establish a functional, robust and trusted network of UNSGM Designated Laboratories. Consequently, an increasing number of relevant activities at laboratory level have already started. The upcoming workshop will take stock of progress made, focus on what has been achieved so far, and discuss how the laboratory network can move forward.

### **Workshop Format and Objectives**

This fifth Swiss UNSGM Designated Laboratories workshop is intended for experts from laboratories, policymaking and other relevant government offices. The workshop will focus on the following themes:

- Laboratory exercises: review of past and outlook to future exercises, lessons learned, recommendations, including the enhancement of quality assurance, increase the number of participating laboratories and broaden geographical representation;
- Laboratory support and assistance: required capabilities of a UNSGM Designated Laboratory to support and assist a mission team, while respecting the mandate and confidentiality;
- Interfaces to laboratories: guidance for sampling from a laboratory perspective, and the role and function of expert consultants with regard to UNSGM Designated Laboratories;
- Laboratory reporting: guidance for UNSGM Designated Laboratories in reporting sample analyses results.

The organisers will prepare a summary report of the workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines and Procedures for the timely and efficient investigation of reports for the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons, '[Guidelines and Procedures \(1989\)](#)'; paragraph 37

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*; paragraph 76

<sup>3</sup> SPIEZ LABORATORY, Federal Office for Civil Protection, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport; International Relations Defence, Swiss Armed Forces, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport; Division for Security Policy, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

<sup>4</sup> UNSGM Designated Laboratories Workshop [Report](#), Spiez, Switzerland, 9-11 November 2015

UNSGM Designated Laboratories Workshop [Report](#), Spiez, Switzerland, 22-24 June 2016

UNSGM Designated Laboratories Workshop [Report](#), Spiez, Switzerland, 20-22 June 2017

UNSGM Designated Laboratories Workshop [Report](#), Spiez, Switzerland, 9-11 September 2018

## **Venue**

The venue for the workshop is the Hotel Eden in Spiez, Switzerland. It offers modern conference facilities together with a scenic view of the lake of Thun and the Bernese alps. Accommodation as well as most meals will be at the Hotel Eden which creates opportunities for fruitful exchanges in a relaxed atmosphere. We recommend accommodation at the Hotel Eden. A reduced rate has been negotiated for all attendees who book their rooms before **31 May 2019**.

## **Program**

The workshop will start on Wednesday evening, 11 September 2019 with a Meet & Greet and end at lunchtime on Friday, 13 September 2019. Participants are expected to engage and to attend the workshop in full. The workshop language is English, no translation will be provided.

## **Administration**

Workshop participation is by invitation. Seats are limited, therefore we need to know if you can participate or intend to participate latest by **17 May 2019**. Registration is free of charge and participants are invited for the Meet & Greet, dinner and for all lunches and refreshments during breaks.

The registration form, plus information about the venue are enclosed in this package. Once your workshop registration has been received a confirmation E-mail will be sent out. Participants requiring a visa to travel to Switzerland can obtain an official visa letter – please contact: [lisa.brueggemann@babs.admin.ch](mailto:lisa.brueggemann@babs.admin.ch)