

## 2.4 National Laboratories

National Laboratories of States Parties perform tasks assigned to them by their National Authority. They do not automatically form part of the laboratory network for verification analyses (but could, of course, also become Accredited Laboratories). It is conceivable that such laboratories - either under contract or under "national support programmes" - could develop analytical methods and instruments which could be useful for the Technical Secretariat. (The same holds for other scientific or commercial institutions.)

It could also be envisaged that States Parties which do not consider it necessary to build a National Laboratory of their own, could cooperate with other countries in the same region in establishing a joint laboratory that would act as a National Laboratory for several participating countries.

In order to contribute to standardization, the National Laboratories would be provided with the central analytical database and the recommended operating procedures of the Organization.

## 3. Conclusions

In good cooperation between the Technical Secretariat and States Parties, it seems possible to set up a cost-effective laboratory network meeting all the needs of the Technical Secretariat under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The system would optimally utilize knowledge and equipment already available or to be developed by States Parties. This approach will require a reliable quality assurance system.

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