uncover possible deficiences. The most important part of testing is, however, periodic analyses of proficiency samples. These tests could be organized in the form of international interlaboratory comparison tests. In these tests the laboratories seeking accreditation must be able to identify compounds of interest to the CWC unambiguously (CD/CW/WP.308).

After accreditation, continuous testing of laboratories is required. This will be done by periodic audits (e.g. every two years) of the laboratories, and either by organizing new interlaboratory comparison tests or by adding proficiency samples among the genuine samples each time samples are sent for analysis to a particular laboratory. The latter procedure would allow checking of the capability of the laboratory each time its services are used.

4. Quality Assurance System

The vital element for the accreditation of the laboratories is a Quality Assurance System. Additional elements include the possession of authentic, fully-validated reference samples, and a validated analytical database. The reference samples and the database could be provided to the laboratories by the Technical Secretariat.
The key element - i.e. the Quality Assurance System appropriate to the types of functions performed for the Technical Secretariat (analytical, synthesis, research, training, etc.) - has to be created by the laboratories themselves. The Quality Assurance System should be laid down in a Quality Manual.

This Manual should cover the following aspects for each laboratory:

- declaration of intent for quality assurance management;
- data about the organization and personnel;
- description of the pretensions of the laboratory;
- description of the premises;
- functioning of the internal auditing system;
- description of the functioning to manage externally