



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Third Session
16 - 20 November 1998

C-III/DEC.12
20 November 1998
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DECISION

ALL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BURIED BY A STATE PARTY ON ITS TERRITORY AFTER 1976 OR DUMPED AT SEA AFTER 1984, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE CHALLENGE INSPECTION, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Conference

Having considered the issue of chemical weapons buried by a State Party on its territory after 1976 or dumped at sea after 1984, including a possible challenge inspection, and its implications for the Technical Secretariat's responsibilities and other Expert Groups' tasks in this regard;

Taking into account the work of the Preparatory Commission on these issues;

Noting that the following decisions were taken at the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties:

C-I/DEC.31, dated 16 May 1997: "Understanding with Respect to the Terms 'Buried by a State Party on its Territory' and 'Dumped at Sea'",

C-I/DEC.30, also dated 16 May 1997: "Declaration Requirements for Chemical Weapons Buried by a State Party on its Territory after 1976 or Dumped at Sea after 1984";

Noting that the issue was referred by the Conference of the States Parties at its First Session to the Committee of the Whole (C-I/2, dated 12 May 1997);

Reaffirming that verification should be conducted in a cost-effective manner, taking due regard of safety aspects;

Noting also that the challenge inspection procedures of the Convention, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, also apply to such chemical weapons;

Having received the report from the Committee of the Whole during the Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties containing a recommendation to adopt the decision below;

Hereby :

1. **Decides** that the Technical Secretariat shall inspect chemical weapons buried on the territory of a State Party after 1976 or dumped at sea after 1984 on the basis of declarations submitted to this effect, taking into consideration that such weapons have to be accessible in terms of the identification thereof as required in Article IV and the relevant provisions of Part IV of the Verification Annex; and
2. **Agrees** to remove the issue of “all aspects of the issue of chemical weapons buried by a State Party at its territory after 1976 or dumped at sea after 1984, including a possible challenge inspection, and its implication for the Technical Secretariat’s responsibilities” from the list of unresolved issues.

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