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Fifteenth Session  
(16 - 20 December 1996)

## **REPORT OF THE COMMISSION**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In accordance with its decision recorded in the Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Preparatory Commission (PC-XIV/29), the Commission convened its Fifteenth Session in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 16 - 20 December 1996.
- 1.2 During the period under review, no additional States signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The number of signatory States therefore stood at 160.
- 1.3 In the same period, seven additional States deposited an instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary of the Convention, thus bringing the number of ratifications to 67: Saudi Arabia (9 August 1996), India (3 September 1996), Portugal (10 September 1996), Cameroon (16 September 1996), Hungary (31 October 1996), Swaziland (20 November 1996), and the Philippines (11 December 1996). The deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification, on 31 October 1996, triggered the entry into force of the Convention 180 days later, on 29 April 1997.
- 1.4 The following 90 Member States participated in the Fifteenth Session of the Commission:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

**2. AGENDA ITEM ONE - Opening of the Session**

The Session was opened by the Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Marin Buhoara of Romania, at 11:00 on 16 December 1996.

**3. AGENDA ITEM TWO - Adoption of the Agenda**

On 16 December 1996 the Commission **adopted** the following agenda for its Fifteenth Session:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Report of the Executive Secretary
4. General discussion on major outstanding issues
5. Preparations for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties
6. Consideration of the Report of Working Group A and appropriate action
7. Consideration of the Report of Working Group B and appropriate action
8. Report of the Credentials Committee
9. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
10. Election of the Chairman and other Officers of the Commission
11. Appointments to the Credentials Committee
12. Any other business
13. Date and Agenda of the Sixteenth Session
14. Adoption of the Report and closure of the Session

**4. AGENDA ITEM THREE - Report of the Executive Secretary**

The Commission **received** the Report of the Executive Secretary, Mr Ian R. Kenyon (PC-XV/5 and Corr.1 and 2). The Report is divided into two parts: Part I provides an overview; and Part II covers the intersessional period from 17 July to 12 December 1996.

**5. AGENDA ITEM FOUR - General discussion on major outstanding issues**

5.1 Statements were made by the delegations of Japan, South Africa, Brazil (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Germany, Brazil, Italy, France, Ireland, China, Indonesia, India, Hungary, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden, Russian Federation, Pakistan, United States of America, France (on behalf of the Western European and Other States Group), Austria, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), Zimbabwe, Switzerland, Uganda, Poland, Cuba, Canada, Philippines, Kenya, Turkey, and the Islamic Republic of Iran .

5.2 In accordance with the recommendation of Working Group A, the Commission allocated specific time under this agenda item for a discussion of the Preliminary Draft OPCW Programme and Budget for 1997, including its budgetary variations which may be necessary due to expressed concerns about basic assumptions. The delegations of Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, Germany, Canada, Italy, Sweden, Australia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Northern Ireland, France and the Russian Federation spoke during this segment of the debate. The Executive Secretary noted that several delegations, including some of those which spoke in the first part of the general debate, had expressed concerns about the need to ensure that the Draft OPCW Budget, to be proposed by the Commission to the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties for adoption, should be appropriate to the circumstances at that time and that the assumptions which had guided the work on budgetary issues thus far might prove to be invalid. The Executive Secretary assured the Commission that he was aware of the problem and of the discussion which had taken place in connection with the Secretariat discussion paper: "Verification Resource Requirements: Variations on a Theme" (PoWB Paper No. 12). The Executive Secretary expressed the view that the most effective way to proceed would be for the Expert Group on Programme of Work and Budget to have a detailed discussion of the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget document (PC-XV/A/WP.3) prepared by the Secretariat; to identify means to adjust, if necessary, the draft OPCW Budget in accordance with the prevailing situation; to produce a draft budget incorporating different options enabling sufficient flexibility for the final Session of the Commission to propose an adequate budget to the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties. The Commission **endorsed** this approach.

5.3 The Commission **decided** to review at its next Session the status of ratification of the Convention by all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, and in this context the status of ratification in the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the implications of that to the universal and comprehensive nature of the Convention, and to make appropriate recommendations to the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

5.4 The Commission **requested** the Executive Secretary to present to the next Session of the Commission a comprehensive background report on the issue and on possible scenarios.

## **6. AGENDA ITEM FIVE - Preparations for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties**

6.1 The Commission **noted** the Report of the Committee on Preparations for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties (PC-XV/FS/1), which was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Marin Buhoara of Romania.

6.2 The Commission **reached agreement** on the arrangements for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties as reflected in the draft letter of invitation and the draft note verbale contained in Annex 1 to this Report.

## **7. AGENDA ITEM SIX - Report of Working Group A**

7.1 On 20 December 1996 the Chairman of Working Group A, Ambassador Carlos Enrique Nones of Venezuela, introduced the Report of Working Group A

(PC-XV/A/8). The Commission **took the following action** in relation to matters arising out of the Report of Working Group A:

### **Administrative, Financial, and Personnel Matters**

- 7.2 The Commission **delegated** to Working Group A the authority to finally approve, after consideration during the intersessional period prior to the Sixteenth Session of the Commission, the Draft Protocol Regarding the Transfer of Assets, Liabilities, Records and Functions from the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (Annex to PC-XV/A/WP.11).

### **Programme of Work and Budget**

#### On transfers in the 1996 Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission

- 7.3 The Commission **noted** that Working Group A, in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Commission at its Fourteenth Session (PC-XIV/29, subparagraph 8.7), had approved the inter-programme transfer of funds contained in PC-XV/3 (subparagraph 2.2 of PC-XV/A/3).

#### On the Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission

- 7.4 **Noting** that, in accordance with the ad referendum procedure agreed to by the Expert Group on Programme of Work and Budget (subparagraph 6.1 of PC-XV/A/WP.9), no objection to the Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission (PC-XV/A/WP.2/Rev.1 and Corr.1) had been received by the Secretariat by 15 November 1996, the Commission:
- (a) **approved** the contents of subparagraph 3.2 of PC-XV/A/WP.9;
  - (b) **approved** the Prorated Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission for the 1997 budgetary period (PC-XV/A/WP.2/Rev.1 and Corr.1);
  - (c) **appropriated**, in Dutch guilders, a total amount of Dfl. 13,214,800 for the Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission, and **authorised** the Executive Secretary to incur expenditures in an amount not exceeding that total;
  - (d) **decided** that the appropriations specified in subparagraph 7.4(c) above be financed by contributions from all Member States in the amount of Dfl. 13,164,800 in accordance with the scale of assessments circulated to Member States prior to the Fifteenth Session of the Commission (PC-XV/A/4), as well as by estimated prorated interest income in the amount of Dfl. 50,000; and

- (e) **decided to continue** the Special Account for the Procurement of Inspection and Laboratory Equipment for the duration of the life of the Commission.

On the payment of contributions to the Prorated 1997 Part I Budget of the Commission

- 7.5 The Commission **requested** Member States to pay their contributions to the Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission in full within thirty days of the receipt of the communication from the Executive Secretary requesting the contribution.

On inter-programme transfers within the Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission

- 7.6 The Commission **authorised** the Executive Secretary, in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.5, to make, if necessary, the following inter-programme transfers within the Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission:
- (a) transfers of funds between programmes for official travel in a total amount equal to 15% of the allocation for this budget category for the budgetary period; and
  - (b) transfers of general temporary assistance funds between programmes in a total amount equal to 15% of the allocation for this budget category for the budgetary period.

On the implementation of the 1996 Part II Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission

- 7.7 The Commission **requested** the Executive Secretary to consider each element of expenditure in the light of developments having financial and budgetary implications and to report as appropriate to the Commission.

On the implementation of the Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission

- 7.8 The Commission **requested** the Executive Secretary to consider each element of expenditure in the light of developments having financial and budgetary implications and to report as appropriate to the Commission.

**OPCW Headquarters Agreement and Other Agreements**

- 7.9 The Commission:
- (a) **provisionally approved** the Draft Agreement between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands Concerning the Headquarters of the OPCW including the Separate Arrangement with respect to the Agreement between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Kingdom of the Netherlands Concerning the Headquarters of the OPCW (Annex to PC-XV/A/WP.10/Rev.1), and **decided** that this approval will become final if

no objections from any delegation are received by the Secretariat by 10 January 1997 in The Hague; and

- (b) **requested** the Host Country to implement this Agreement, including a Separate Arrangement, on a provisional basis after the Convention enters into force on 29 April 1997, pending the approval by the Conference of the States Parties of the text of the Headquarters Agreement including a Separate Arrangement and the entry into force of the Agreement.

## 8. AGENDA ITEM SEVEN - Report of Working Group B

- 8.1 On 20 December 1996 the Chairman of Working Group B, Dr Radoslav Deyanov of Bulgaria, introduced the Report of Working Group B (PC-XV/B/16). The Commission **took the following action** in relation to matters arising out of the Report of Working Group B:

### Chemical Weapons Issues 2

- 8.2 The Commission **decided** to delete the task "Finalise recommendations for guidelines for transitional verification arrangements, in accordance with Part IV(A), paragraph 51 of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(m) of the Paris Resolution)" from its list of tasks. This deletion was on the understanding that the above task has been fully addressed by Section III and Appendix 1 of the Chairman's Paper annexed to the Third Report of the Expert Group on Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities (PC-VI/B/WP.14) and by Table 1 of the same Group's Interim Report (PC-V/B/WP.17).

### Inspection Procedures

- 8.3 The Commission considered and:
  - (a) **approved** the contents of the administrative package for the biomedical module of the alleged use sample collection kit as contained in Annex 2 to PC-XV/B/WP.9;
  - (b) **approved** the results of the evaluation of the GC data as contained in Annex 1 to PC-XV/B/WP.9;
  - (c) **approved** the inclusion of analytical data in the OPCW Analytical Database for the test chemicals, as contained in the "Recommended Operating Procedure for On-Site Analysis by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)" (PC-XIV/B/WP.5, Annex 5) on the understanding that the test samples will not contain scheduled chemicals and that, therefore, the use of the above data, during on-site analysis, will be restricted to GC/MS performance tests and that analytical procedures which prevent cross contamination of the test chemicals are applied, as appropriate;

- (d) **approved** the understanding reached by the Expert Group on Inspection Procedures that, in relation to proficiency tests following the first test, the conditions set out in subparagraphs 4.1(b)(i) to (viii) of PC-XV/B/WP.9 shall apply;
- (e) **instructed** the Secretariat to proceed with the notification of proficiency testing in accordance with the recommendation that the schedule information shall be communicated at least two months prior to the scheduled starting date directly to all laboratories which have previously participated in proficiency tests. This information shall also be simultaneously communicated to all Member States to facilitate the participation of new laboratories. The laboratory or the Member State must notify the Secretariat if the laboratory intends to participate in the test. This notification must be provided to the Secretariat within one month after the Secretariat's communication of the schedule information;
- (f) **approved** the operational requirements and **noted** the technical specifications of the two items of equipment "individual heat stress monitor" and "portable acetylcholinesterase activity monitor" as set out in Annex 3 to PC-XV/B/WP.9, and **added** these two items to the list of equipment approved by the Commission for its budgetary purposes (Annex to PC-VIII/A/WP.7), on the understanding that their future use on-site will be governed, inter alia, by the provisions of subparagraph 4.2 of the Draft OPCW Health and Safety Regulations.

8.4 The Commission **took note**:

- (a) of the agreement in the Expert Group on Inspection Procedures that the validation of the central OPCW Analytical Database should be addressed by the Secretariat;
- (b) that, whilst the NIPPS system meets many of the operational requirements and technical specifications, several key requirements are not met and that these aspects should be addressed by the Secretariat and the appropriate recommendations should be adopted by the appropriate bodies of the Commission;
- (c) that further evaluation of the GC/MS instruments should be performed by the Secretariat and, if available, with the assistance of Member States to address the aspects referred to in subparagraph 5(c) of PC-XV/B/WP.9;
- (d) that, in relation to the preliminary evaluation report of the First Official Proficiency Test, GC/MS(EI) by quadrupole and ion trap instruments should not be regarded as two different analytical techniques; and
- (e) of the view that inspector training on portable GC/MS instruments should be carried out on instruments of both manufacturers on the understanding that

there will be no financial consequences for the Commission and for the OPCW.

**9. AGENDA ITEM EIGHT - Report of the Credentials Committee**

- 9.1 The Commission **noted** the Report of the Credentials Committee (PC-XV/12), which was presented on 19 December 1996 by Mr Gianfranco Tracci of Italy, the newly-elected Chairman of the Committee, replacing Mr Gerardo Girardo Crocini of Italy.
- 9.2 The Chairman orally informed the Commission that, subsequent to the adoption of the Committee's Report, formal credentials were received for the Representatives of Belarus and El Salvador, and an official communication was received regarding the accreditation of the Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. These will be recorded in the next Report of the Credentials Committee at the Sixteenth Session of the Commission.
- 9.3 Accordingly, at the time of the Fifteenth Session the following 109 Member States had Representatives to the Commission, accredited or provisionally participating in accordance with Rules 2, 3, and 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- 9.4 The Commission **urged** all provisionally participating Member States to comply with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure as soon as possible so that all representatives of Member States are duly accredited at the final Session of the Commission.
- 9.5 The Commission **encouraged** Member States to submit the documents required for the appointment or replacement of Representatives not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the next Session.

**10. AGENDA ITEM NINE - Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country**

The Commission **noted** the Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (PC-XV/HC/4), which was presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Marin Buhoara of Romania. The Commission, recalling its earlier decision (PC-XIII/18, subparagraph 9.6), **noted in particular** the approval of the

Committee for the Sublease Agreement to be entered into between the Commission and the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (UN-ICTY) for the space available in the Aegon Building (see PC-XV/HC/3 and Corr.1) and the authority given to the Executive Secretary to sign the Sublease Agreement at the earliest convenience following the clarification and successful conclusion of a few outstanding issues with the UN-ICTY. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Commission **decided** that the Sublease Agreement be forwarded to the Conference of the States Parties as its First Session for confirmation.

**11. AGENDA ITEM TEN - Election of the Chairman and other Officers of the Commission**

11.1 In accordance with Rules 7 and 8 of the Rules of Procedure the Commission **elected** by acclamation Ambassador Gustavo Eduardo Figueroa of Argentina as Chairman for the period from 8 February 1997 to the end of the life of the Commission.

11.2 The Commission also **elected** the Representatives of Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Poland, Brazil, and the United States of America as Vice-Chairmen for the same period.

**12. AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN - Appointments to the Credentials Committee**

Upon the proposal of the Chairman of the Commission, the Republic of Korea was **appointed** to the Credentials Committee by the Commission, in accordance with Rule 4 of its Rules of Procedure, to the seat vacated by Nepal.

**13. AGENDA ITEM TWELVE - Any other business**

**Intra-programme transfers**

13.1 The Commission **noted** that the intra-programme transfers reported in PC-XV/3 were made in accordance with the requirements of Financial Regulation 4.5.

**Plan of activities and schedule of meetings for the period January - April 1997**

13.2 The Commission **approved** the "Plan of Activities and Schedule of Meetings of Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission for the Period January - April 1997" as contained in Annex 2 to this Report. Titles in parentheses are simply indicative of clusters of issues on which work will concentrate during that particular period, leaving to the Chairperson of the Expert Group some flexibility in arranging the work. The task shall be to prepare appropriate language either as the solution to the outstanding issues, for inclusion in the draft Final Report of the Commission, or by submitting agreed language to describe the situation in relation to those unresolved issues. The agreed language will be adopted by Expert Groups in formal meetings. The agreed language, after its adoption by the appropriate Working Group, shall be passed to the Committee on Preparations for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties for inclusion in the draft Final Report of the Commission. The Combined Meeting of Working Groups A and B on 3 March 1997 will take a decision on arrangements for the remaining intersessional period. The meeting of the Finance

Group, if required, will be arranged in consultation with the Chairman and members of that Group with at least three weeks' advance notification of the meeting.

### **Renewal of appointment of Executive Secretary**

- 13.3 In accordance with the decision adopted by the Commission at its First Plenary Session, as contained in subparagraph 11(b) of PREPCOM/I/4, and with the decisions adopted by the Commission at its Ninth and Twelfth Sessions, as contained in subparagraphs 10.2 of PC-IX/11 and 11.4 of PC-XII/17 respectively, the Commission **renewed** the appointment of Mr Ian R. Kenyon as Executive Secretary for the period from 11 February 1997 until one month after the person appointed to be Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has taken up post.

### **Trust Fund for Personnel of National Authorities**

- 13.4 The Commission **took cognisance of** the Executive Secretary's Note on the Trust Fund for Personnel of National Authorities (PC-XV/4), which records all contributions received for this fund since 9 July 1996.

### **Forthcoming basic course for personnel of National Authorities**

- 13.5 The Executive Secretary drew attention to the invitation already extended to Member States, in PC-XV/B/12, to propose candidates for a basic course for personnel of National Authorities to take place in Ypenburg, the Netherlands, from 10 - 28 February 1997.
- 13.6 The Executive Secretary was asked to state his policy regarding the provision of training. He stated as follows:

"This is indeed a very important question, and I want my own position to be absolutely clear. As far as I am concerned all members of the Technical Secretariat, currently the Provisional Technical Secretariat, and all inspector trainees and later the inspectors to become part of the Technical Secretariat are equal members currently of the Commission's Secretariat staff, and later of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and should be treated the same.

Under the General Training Scheme, which is put together to enable us to train inspectors for recruitment to the new Organisation, it is, as far as I am concerned, fundamental that all trainees should receive fully appropriate training, regardless of whatever country they come from and regardless of what their specialities may be within the agreed specialities for inspectors.

It is my job to ensure that, by constructing the General Training Scheme, I can make sure that they do indeed receive that equal treatment. I believe that it is important that I have a scheme which enables me to do that. I believe I can construct a scheme which enables me to do that.

However, it is also my understanding that, within the Convention itself, the reality of the international situation is recognised. And every Member State has the right, when offered a list of potential inspectors on its territory, to say which it will accept and which it will not accept and is not obliged to give the reasons for those decisions. It seems to me that there is a direct parallel that, if a State which has generously offered training facilities is offered a list of trainees, it may, if it wishes, reserve the right to ask to have individual trainees replaced by others without necessarily stating the reasons.

It is my job to ensure that no trainee and no receiving State if at all possible is put in the embarrassing situation where that would actually happen. I believe that we have a good chance of being able to do that, given that we have a reasonable spread of places to send our trainees, and I am very grateful for the fact that we in fact have a very large spread of nationalities among our trainees, as it will be one of the strengths of the new Organisation, that it is able to choose its inspectors, already from its inception, from such a wide range of nationalities from all regions of the world.

It is my intention, Mr Chairman, to run a scheme which does not subject any trainee to discrimination and which ensures that they all have the right quality of training. And in my negotiations with the Member States which are offering training I have been bearing that as the fundamental principle in mind."

- 13.7 The Commission **reiterated** that the training activities carried out by the Commission are activities under the purview of the Commission. Trainees from all Member States are entitled to enjoy equal treatment with regard to their participation. This understanding shall be included in the guidelines for the Secretariat in its selection of training facilities, and the Secretariat **was requested** to keep the Commission informed of any development on this issue.
- 13.8 The Commission **requested** the Executive Secretary not to enter into any agreement with any Member State which creates a list of countries to whose nationals training would not be offered.
- 13.9 The Commission further **requested** the Executive Secretary to circulate copies of all agreements entered into for training facilities to Member States of the Commission, in accordance with the Draft OPCW Confidentiality Policy.

#### 14. **AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN - Date and Agenda of the Sixteenth Session**

The Commission **decided** to hold its Sixteenth Session from 9 to 15 April 1997, including Saturday 12 April, in The Hague, the Netherlands, and also **decided** to consider the following provisional agenda for adoption at the opening of its Sixteenth Session:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Report of the Executive Secretary
4. General discussion

5. Report of the Credentials Committee
6. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
7. Report of the Committee on Preparations for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties
8. Report of Working Group A
9. Report of Working Group B
10. Consideration and adoption of the Final Report and Recommendations of the Commission
11. Any other business

**15. AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN - Adoption of the Report and Closure of the Fifteenth Session**

The Commission **adopted** its Report, and the Chairman closed the Fifteenth Session at 1:45 on 21 December 1996.

**Annex 1**

**DRAFT LETTER OF INVITATION AND NOTE VERBALE  
TO ALL SIGNATORY STATES FOR  
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

**A. DRAFT LETTER OF INVITATION**

Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I extend this invitation to your Excellency's government to attend the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Conference is being convened in accordance with paragraph 10, Article VIII(B) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. Under this Article the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity as Depositary of the Convention, is mandated to convene the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties within 30 days of the entry into force of the Convention. Since the 65th instrument of ratification was deposited with me on 31 October 1996, in accordance with Article XXI of the Convention, it shall enter into force on 29 April 1997.

The First Session of the Conference of the States Parties will open in The Hague on 6 May 1997. The first four days of the Conference shall comprise a high level segment which will include a general debate in the plenary.

A note verbale with information regarding administrative and logistical arrangements for the Conference shall be issued at an appropriate time by the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague.

The First Session constitutes an historic milestone in our collective endeavour to banish the scourge of chemical weapons for all time. I therefore look forward to the participation of your Excellency's government in this important event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Secretary-General**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs of the ...**

## **B. DRAFT NOTE VERBALE**

The Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons presents his compliments to the ..... and has the honour to refer to Letter No. .... dated ..... from the Secretary General of the United Nations, conveying an invitation to His Excellency's government to attend the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

As indicated in the invitation, the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties will open in The Hague on 6 May 1997. The first four days of the Conference shall comprise a high level segment which will include a general debate in the plenary. A list of speakers for the general debate shall be opened at the Provisional Technical Secretariat in The Hague between 1 March and 29 April 1997. His Excellency's government is invited to inscribe itself in the list of speakers during this period.

It is requested that the name of the head of delegation, as well as the names of other members who will form part of the delegation of His Excellency's government, are transmitted to the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the OPCW not later than 30 days prior to the start of the Conference.

With regard to the credentials of heads of delegation to the Conference, these shall be addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations and shall be deposited with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission at least one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be signed either by the Head of State or Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or any other authority acting on their behalf.

If a signatory State deposits its instrument of ratification of the Convention prior to 29 April 1997, the date of entry into force of the Convention, its delegation shall participate in the Conference as a State Party. States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of the Convention shall acquire the status of a State Party, in terms of participation, in the Conference, on the 30th day following the date of deposit of their instrument of ratification or accession, in accordance with paragraph 2, Article XXI of the Convention.

The scope of participation of signatory and non-signatory States will be determined by the Rules of Procedure of the Conference. These are currently being drafted by the Preparatory Commission for approval by the Conference at its First Session.

The Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the OPCW in The Hague will soon issue an Information Handbook to inform participating delegations of the detailed logistical and administrative arrangements for the Conference.

The address and contact numbers of the Provisional Technical Secretariat in The Hague are as follows :

Address : Laan van Meerdervoort 51  
2517 AE The Hague  
Telephone : 376 1700  
Fax : 360 0944

The Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons avails himself of this opportunity to renew to ..... the assurances of his highest consideration.

**Annex 2**

**PLAN OF ACTIVITIES  
OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY - APRIL 1997**

**PART I**

**TASKS, OBJECTIVES, PRIORITY OF ISSUES AND DOCUMENTS OF EXPERT  
GROUPS**

**WORKING GROUP A**

**I. EXPERT GROUP ON  
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET  
(CHAIRMAN: MR GONZALO CASÁS - URUGUAY)**

**A. FINANCE GROUP  
(CHAIRMAN: MR ARNOLD CALS - NETHERLANDS)**

**Tasks:**

- **Consider** the Preliminary Draft OPCW Programme and Budget for 1997.
- **Review** the Draft OPCW Financial Rules on Reimbursable Expenses.
- **Review** Secretariat report on the budgetary aspects of the IMS, if required.
- **Evaluate** any materials provided by the Executive Secretary on budgetary issues.
- Any other business.

**Documents:**

- OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 1997 (PC-XV/A/WP.3)
- Draft OPCW Financial Rules on Reimbursable Expenses
- Secretariat report on the budgetary aspects of the IMS, if any

**B. EXPERT GROUP ON  
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET  
(CHAIRMAN: MR GONZALO CASÁS - URUGUAY)**

**Tasks:**

- **Consider** the Preliminary Draft OPCW Programme and Budget for 1997.
- **Review** Secretariat report on the budgetary aspects of the IMS, if required.
- **Evaluate** any materials provided by the Executive Secretary on budgetary issues.

**Documents:**

- Finance Group Report of the Eleventh Meeting (PC-XV/A/WP.7)
- OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 1997 (PC-XV/A/WP.3)
- Prorated 1997 Part I Programme of Work and Budget of the Commission (PC-XV/A/WP.2/Rev.1 and Corr.1)

**II. EXPERT GROUP ON  
ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS  
(CHAIRPERSON: MS DEEPA GOPALAN WADHWA - INDIA)**

**Tasks:**

- **Finalise** Draft OPCW Financial Rules.
- **Finalise** Draft OPCW Staff Regulations.
- **Consider** Draft OPCW Staff Rules
- **Evaluate** the legal implications of the termination of employment for medical reasons.
- **Elaborate** recommendations concerning the issue of possible misconduct by members of an inspection team, taking into account the discussions in the Expert Group on Challenge Inspection concerning possible misconduct by members of an inspection team during a challenge inspection.
- **Finalise** recommendations with respect to the transfer from the Commission to the OPCW, if required.
- **Consider** options and continue discussions on the OPCW top structure.

- **Consider** issues relating to the appointment of staff members of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW.

**Documents:**

- "Fourth Draft OPCW Financial Rules as Proposed by the Finance Group and in accordance with the Final Draft Financial Regulations by the OPCW", Expert Group on A, F and P Matters paper no. 13 (2 December 1996)
- Draft OPCW Financial Regulations (PC-XIII/A/2 and Corr.1)
- Finance Group Report of the Ninth Meeting (PC-XIII/A/WP.2 and Corr.1) and Finance Group Report of the Tenth Meeting (PC-XIV/A/WP.4)
- "Tabulation of Main Elements of Different Options of the OPCW Top Structure", paper no. 15 (2 December 1996)
- Secretariat paper: "Misconduct", Expert Group on A, F and P Matters paper no. 19 (2 December 1996)
- "Termination of Employment for Medical Reasons", Expert Group on A, F and P Matters paper no. 16 (2 December 1996)
- Draft OPCW Staff Regulations (PC-XV/A/1/Rev.1)

**III. FORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON VISA MATTERS  
(CHAIRMAN: MR JAN ZAADHOF - NETHERLANDS)**

**Task:**

- **Finalise consultations** on visa requirements and travel documents for OPCW inspectors and inspection assistants.

**Documents:**

- PC-XIV/A/WP.7
- PC-XV/A/WP.4

**IV. EXPERT GROUP ON  
DATA SYSTEMS  
(CHAIRMAN: MR ANDRÁS NAGY - HUNGARY)**

**Task:**

- **Monitor** the process of establishing a "minimum" IMS and recommend, as needed, contingency measures.

**Documents:**

- Secretariat's status reports on the process of establishing a "minimum" IMS
- PC-XIV/A/WP.1
- PC-XII/A/3
- PC-XV/A/6

**V. EXPERT GROUP ON  
OPCW HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND OTHER AGREEMENTS  
(CHAIRMAN: PROF. NATALINO RONZITTI - ITALY)**

**Tasks:**

- **Consider and resolve**, if required, any possible objection received from delegations regarding the Draft OPCW Headquarters Agreement.
- **Consider and finalise** the Draft Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW.
- **Consider and finalise** the Draft Bilateral Agreements on Privileges and Immunities of the OPCW.

**Documents:**

- Draft OPCW Headquarters Agreement, if required
- Draft Agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW
- Draft Bilateral Agreements on Privileges and Immunities of the OPCW

## WORKING GROUP B

### I. EXPERT GROUP ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE (CHAIRMAN: MR TARIQ JAVED - PAKISTAN)

(a) **Tasks identified in the Paris Resolution:**

- **Develop** lists of items to be stockpiled by States Parties for emergency and humanitarian assistance in accordance with Article VIII, subparagraph 39(b) (subparagraph 12(b) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Develop** procedures for the provision of information by States Parties on their programmes related to protective purposes, in accordance with Article X, paragraph 4 (subparagraph 12(d) of the Paris Resolution).

(b) **Other priority task:**

- **Resolve** other outstanding issues under Articles X and XI.

### II. EXPERT GROUP ON CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ISSUES (CHAIRMAN: DR WILHELM BEUTH - GERMANY)

(a) **Tasks identified in the Paris Resolution:**

- **Develop** guidelines on detailed procedures for verification and for the conduct of inspections, in accordance with, inter alia, Part II, paragraph 42, of the Verification Annex (for Schedule 1 facilities) (subparagraph 12(a) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Develop and finalise** models for facility agreements in accordance with Part III, paragraph 8, of the Verification Annex (for Schedule 1 facilities) (subparagraph 12(i) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Finalise** guidelines to assess the risk to the object and purpose of the Convention posed by the quantities of chemicals produced, the characteristics of the facility and the nature of the activities carried out there, in accordance with Part VI, paragraph 30, of the Verification Annex (for "other" Schedule 1 facilities) (subparagraph 12(s) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Develop** guidelines to assess the risk to the object and purpose of the Convention posed by the relevant chemicals, the characteristics of the facility and the nature of the activities carried out there, in accordance with Part VI, paragraph 23 of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(q) of the Paris Resolution).

- **Finalise** guidelines for provisions regarding scheduled chemicals in low concentrations, including in mixtures, in accordance with Part VII, paragraph 5, and Part VIII, paragraph 5, of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(t) of the Paris Resolution).
  - **Develop and finalise** models for facility agreements covering detailed inspection procedures, in accordance with Part VI, paragraph 27 of the Verification Annex (in regard to SSSFs) (subparagraph 12(r) of the Paris Resolution).
- (b) Other priority tasks:**
- **Finalise** the model facility agreement for Schedule 2 plant sites covered under Article VI of the Convention.
  - **Resolve** the issue of whether or not the term "production by synthesis" used in Part IX includes biochemical and biologically mediated processes.
  - **Agree** on the method of reporting aggregate national data for Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals.
  - **Complete discussions** on: the tentative understandings in regard to discrete organic chemicals including PSF chemicals; "production" as defined in subparagraph 12(a) of Article II; and biochemical and biologically mediated processes in relation to scheduled chemicals.
- (c) Other tasks:**
- **Develop** solutions for the issue of castor bean processing plants.
  - **Complete consideration** of the issue of past production of Schedule 1 chemicals at facilities having a capacity above 1 tonne, for purposes not prohibited under the Convention on the basis of the understanding as reflected in subparagraphs 2.4 and 4.5 of PC-VIII/B/WP.10.
  - **Resolve** the issue of the meaning of the term "a State Party" in subparagraph 8(a)(i)(2) of Article II (see subparagraphs 5.4 - 5.6 of PC-VIII/B/WP.10).
  - **Develop** the model facility agreement for Schedule 3 facilities covered under Article VI of the Convention.

**Documents:**

- Chairman's revised version of a Draft Model Agreement for Schedule 1 Facilities dated 19 September 1996
- National proposals for the Draft Model for Schedule 1 Facility Agreements

- Draft Model Agreement for Schedule 2 Plant Sites, prepared by the Chairman of the Expert Group dated 30 May 1996
- Chairman's Notes entitled "Chairman's Summary of the Current State of Deliberations in Regard to Outstanding Chemical Industry Declaration Issues" dated 16 December 1996

### **III. Expert Group 1 on Chemical Weapons Issues (Chairman - DR PER RUNN - SWEDEN)**

#### **(a) Tasks identified in the Paris Resolution:**

- **Develop** models for facility agreements in accordance with Part III, paragraph 8 of the Verification Annex (in regard to CWSFs, CWDFs and CWPFs) (subparagraph 12(i) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Finalise** appropriate detailed procedures to implement Part III, paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Verification Annex, in accordance with paragraph 13 of that Part (installation of continuous monitoring instruments and systems and seals) (subparagraph 12(j) of the Paris Resolution).

#### **(b) Other priority tasks:**

- **Address** the issue of the costs of verification in relation to paragraph 16 of Article IV, paragraph 19 of Article V and paragraph 26 of Part II of the Verification Annex of the Convention with a view to its resolution.
- **Review** the draft model facility agreement for CWDFs, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 51 of Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex, concerning transitional arrangements.
- **Finalise** the elaboration of a clear understanding of what is considered a chemical weapon in particular in relation to Article II, subparagraphs 1(b) and 1(c) (on the basis of the comments provided in relation to Section D of the draft Declaration Handbook).
- **Address** 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 and other Expert Groups' tasks in this regard.
- **Finalise** the declaration requirements for chemical weapons.

(c) **Other tasks:**

- **Develop** provisions regarding "simulation equipment".

**Chemical weapons storage facilities**

- **Review** inspection report formats developed by the Secretariat.
- **Determine** how States Parties report chemical weapons on their own territory that are owned by another State.

**Chemical weapons development facilities**

- **Elaborate** a clear understanding of how the term "primarily for development of chemical weapons" should be understood in preparing declarations under subparagraph 1(d) of Article III (to be undertaken when a proposal has been provided by any Member State).

**Documents:**

- Draft Model Facility Agreement for Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities, proposed by the Friend of the Chair, dated 1 August 1996
- "Procedures for the Installation of Monitoring Instruments and Systems and Seals", Chairman's discussion paper, revision 1, dated 16 October 1996
- "Verification Related Activities that may Result in Costs Chargeable to a State Party under Articles IV and V", Chairman's discussion paper No. 3, revision 7, dated 3 November 1996
- "Issues Related to CW Buried after 1 January 1977 and which Remain Buried, and CW which have been Dumped at Sea after 1 January 1985", Chairman's discussion paper dated 23 September 1996
- "Section D, Declarations of Chemical Weapons (Declaration Due under Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex)", Friend of the Chair paper no. 4 dated 4 January 1996
- PC-VI/B/WP.14, paragraph 20 on simulation equipment
- "Report of Chemical Weapons Storage Facility Inspection", Secretariat paper dated 10 March 1995

**IV. Expert Group 2 on Chemical Weapons Issues  
(Chairman - DR GRAHAM COOPER - UNITED KINGDOM)**

**(a) Tasks identified in the Paris Resolution:**

- **Finalise** guidelines on detailed procedures for verification and for the conduct of inspections, in accordance with, inter alia, Part II, paragraph 42 of the Verification Annex (for CWPFs and CWDFs) (subparagraph 12(a) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Finalise** guidelines for determining the frequency of systematic on-site inspections of chemical weapons production facilities, in accordance with Part V, paragraph 54 of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(o) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Finalise** criteria for toxicity, corrosiveness and, if applicable, other technical factors, in accordance with Part V, subparagraph 71(b) of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(p) of the Paris Resolution).

**(b) Other priority task:**

- **Consider** the implementation of the provisions of the Convention dealing with the conversion of CWPFs.

**(c) Other tasks:**

**Chemical weapons production facilities**

- **Discuss** declaration requirements.

**Chemical weapons destruction facilities**

- **Resolve** the issue of a numerical value for the quantitative assessment of the completeness of destruction.
- **Develop** methods to verify the quantity of agent being destroyed and complete the list of activities for verifying the completeness of destruction and for quantifying destroyed chemical weapons.
- **Develop** guidance on the issue of the destruction of chemical weapons resulting in the formation of Schedule 2 chemicals.
- **Review** formats for declarations and for initial, routine and final inspection reports, prepared by the Secretariat.
- **Develop** procedures to cover the installation, use, inspection and maintenance of equipment installed by the inspected State Party and/or the inspection team.

- **Discuss** the need to develop inspection procedures for facilities at which chemical weapons destruction operations are not continuous, including procedures for a pilot plant to test chemical weapons destruction technologies.

**Documents:**

- Friend of the Chair non-paper No. 2/Rev. 8, "Initial Inspection Activities at Chemical Weapons Production Facilities", dated 2 July 1996
- Friend of the Chair non-paper No.3 (Extract from Friend of the Chair non-paper No. 2/Rev.3, 6 September 1994) "Inspection Activities at Chemical Weapons Production Facilities", dated 14 June 1996

**V. EXPERT GROUP ON OLD AND ABANDONED  
CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
(CHAIRMAN: DR PETER KREJSA - AUSTRIA)**

**(a) Task identified in the Paris Resolution:**

- **Develop** guidelines to determine the "usability" of chemical weapons produced between 1925 and 1946, in accordance with Part IV(B), paragraph 5, of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(n) of the Paris Resolution).

**(b) Other priority tasks:**

- **Resolve** the issue of verification and destruction requirements for old chemical weapons produced between 1925 and 1946.
- **Finalise** the declaration requirements for old chemical weapons produced between 1925 and 1946.
- **Develop** destruction and verification requirements for abandoned chemical weapons, including a possible challenge inspection.

**(c) Other tasks:**

- **Resolve** the issue of the cost of the verification of old chemical weapons and their destruction as referred to in paragraph 8 of the Annex to the Second Report of the Expert Group (PC-VI/B/WP.5).
- **Finalise** the Draft of Section E of the Declaration Handbook entitled "Old Chemical Weapons Produced Before 1925", reflecting the different views expressed by delegations.
- **Finalise** the Draft of Section G of the Declaration Handbook entitled "Abandoned Chemical Weapons".

**Documents:**

- Draft of Section E of the Declaration Handbook entitled "Old Chemical Weapons Produced Before 1925"
- Materials on declaration requirements for old chemical weapons produced between 1925 and 1946 (Section F)
- Draft of Section G of the Declaration Handbook entitled "Abandoned Chemical Weapons"

**VI. EXPERT GROUP ON CONFIDENTIALITY**  
**(CHAIRMAN: MR. ABD-EL-NACEUR BELAÏD - ALGERIA)**

**Tasks:**

- **Consider** the States Parties' possible exercise of national jurisdiction in the event that immunity from jurisdiction is waived by the Director-General in the case of a serious breach of confidentiality by a staff member of the Technical Secretariat, including the possibility of concurrent jurisdiction.
- **Consider** any further proposals relating to the general issue of the application of national jurisdiction to natural or legal persons who have breached confidentiality.
- **Consider** any further proposals that may be made concerning compensation for losses caused by breach of confidentiality.

**VII. EXPERT GROUP ON INSPECTION PROCEDURES**  
**(CHAIRMAN: MR SERGEI KISSELEV - RUSSIAN FEDERATION)**

**(a) Tasks identified in the Paris Resolution:**

- **Develop** a list of approved equipment in accordance with Part II, paragraph 27, of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(e) of the Paris Resolution).
- **Develop** procedures for inclusion in the inspection manual concerning the security, integrity and preservation of samples and for ensuring the protection of the confidentiality of samples transferred for analysis off-site, in accordance with Part II, paragraph 56, of the Verification Annex (subparagraph 12(h) of the Paris Resolution).

(b) **Other priority tasks:**

- **Consider** the reports of the Specialist Task Force on Analytical Issues, the Specialist Task Force on OPCW Analytical Databases and the Specialist Task Force on Inspection Equipment Issues.
- **Develop** provisions for indicating the specific types of equipment for the specific types of inspection.
- **Develop** a common understanding of the term "particular type of inspection" and the possible equipment-related consequences of the application of this term.

(c) **Other tasks:**

- **Review** the Secretariat's discussion paper outlining its views on the "Scope of Activities of Designated Laboratories, and the Role and Status of Other Laboratories", as reflected in the Annex to PC-VI/B/WP.4.
- Specialist Task Force on OPCW Analytical Databases
  - ◆ review the status of the establishment of the electronic database;
  - ◆ prepare the first version of the central OPCW Analytical Database;
  - ◆ consider the Secretariat's proposal on the guidelines to be used for the selection of data from the central OPCW Analytical Database for use in on-site analysis in support of a specific type of inspection; and
  - ◆ consider the inclusion of data on derivatives of scheduled chemicals in the OPCW Analytical Database.
- Specialist Task Force on Analytical Issues
  - ◆ consider the final evaluation results of the First Official Proficiency Test as well as the preliminary evaluation results of the Second Official Proficiency Test;
  - ◆ consider additions to the GC/MS sample preparation kit;
  - ◆ consider analytical aspects of GC/MS evaluation;
  - ◆ re-address the issue of proficiency test scenarios for future OPCW/PTS proficiency tests;
  - ◆ re-address the issue of operating procedures for the preparation of samples from bulk chemicals for gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) analysis;

- ♦ reconsider the standard operating procedures for the on-site GC/MS optimisation and analysis on the basis of the "Recommended Operating Procedure for On-Site Analysis by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)" (PC-XIV/B/WP.5, Annex 5) and taking account of the operational requirements and technical specifications; and
- ♦ reconsider the definition of the standard operating procedures for the optimisation and calibration of the GC/MS instruments before an inspection and for testing after the inspection.
- Specialist Task Force on Inspection Equipment Issues
  - ♦ review interim reports on progress in the evaluation of some items of inspection equipment, as appropriate; and
  - ♦ consider the possible inclusion in the sample collection kit of equipment for taking vapour samples.

**Documents:**

- Paper on the issue of the technical compatibility of on-site data analysis software utilising data from the central OPCW Analytical Database, to be prepared by the Secretariat.
- Paper outlining the guidelines to be used for the selection of data from the central OPCW Analytical Database for use in on-site analysis in support of a specific type of inspection, to be prepared by the Secretariat.
- Standard operating procedures, with the assistance of instrument manufacturers, for the decontamination of the on-site GC/MS instruments, to be prepared by the Secretariat.
- Requirements in order to provide an SOP for QA/QC for on-site GC/MS analysis on the basis of the recommended operating procedure in PC-XIV/B/WP.5, Annex 5, to be prepared by the Secretariat.
- Background paper explaining the need for the inclusion of equipment to the sample collection kit for taking vapour samples (e.g. vapour sample bags) in addition to the equipment for sampling from ambient air, to be prepared by the Secretariat.
- Secretariat discussion paper outlining the Secretariat's views on the "Scope of Activities of Designated Laboratories and the Role and Status of Other Laboratories", as reflected in the Annex to PC-VI/B/WP.4
- Chairman's paper entitled "Approved Equipment" dated 28 November 1996

- Secretariat paper entitled "Principles Governing the Selection of Equipment for Routine Inspections" dated 15 November 1996
- Secretariat paper entitled "Procedures for the Inclusion of the Inspection Manual, concerning the Security, Integrity and Preservation of Samples and for Ensuring the Protection of the Confidentiality of Samples Transferred for Analysis Off Site" dated 22 November 1996

**VIII. EXPERT GROUP ON CHALLENGE INSPECTION  
(CHAIRMAN: MR IAN MUNDELL - CANADA)**

**Tasks:**

- **Finalise** recommendation in regard to further operational requirements for inspection equipment for challenge inspection, bearing in mind their technical, legal, budgetary and confidentiality aspects.
- **Address**, as necessary, cost aspects in case of abuse of the right to request a challenge inspection.
- **Resolve** the issue of the timing of the notification of challenge inspections.
- **Finalise consideration** of the illustrative lists of activities in challenge inspection and illustrative elements of the document on the preliminary factual findings, as well as of the preliminary, draft and final inspection reports.

## **PART II**

### **A.**

#### **COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH HOST COUNTRY**

##### **Tasks:**

- **Monitor** the progress of the realisation of the OPCW building (see subparagraph 2.5 of PC-XIII/HC/8 and Corr.1).
- **Monitor** the progress of the realisation of the interim accommodation (Aegon Building).
- **Address** as required all other accommodation-related issues for the Commission and the OPCW in 1997.
- **Continue** to monitor preparations (logistical and organisational) for the First Session and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the States Parties.
- **Continue** to consider and make recommendations on all issues pertaining to the Host Country Bid (Annex 3 of the Paris Resolution) and the associated Understandings between the Host Country and the Commission concerning the Implementation of Paragraphs 6, 7, 9 and 11 of Annex 3 of the Paris Resolution as well as the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.

### **B.**

#### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Consultations on, and coordination of, issues related to preparations for the First Session of the Conference of the States Parties, including, inter alia:

- (a) substantive tasks:
  - (i) the structure and content of the Final Report of the Commission;
  - (ii) the agendas for the First Session of the Conference and the first meeting of the Executive Council;
  - (iii) the allocation of agenda items to the subsidiary organs of the Conference; and
  - (iv) the preparation of background documentation;

- (b) institutional and procedural tasks:
  - (i) the working structure of the First Session of the Conference;
  - (ii) the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference and the Executive Council;
  - (iii) preparations for the election of officers and the timely appointment of the Director-General;
  - (iv) the numerical distribution of seats among regional groups in regard to the first election of 20 members of the Executive Council, to be elected for a term of one year, with due regard being paid to the established numerical proportions as described in paragraph 23 of Article VIII;
  - (v) the transfer of the property, functions and recommendations of the Commission; and
  - (vi) the necessary sequence of decisions and other actions by the Conference;
- (c) consultations on, coordination of and, when necessary, urgent action on the practical arrangements for the First Session of the Conference, including timing, duration, level, participation and attendance; and
- (d) recommendations for consideration and decision by the Commission. Regular reports to the Commission on any action taken by the Committee.

**JANUARY 1997**

(Unless indicated otherwise, all consultations will normally be in the morning, and the afternoons are normally reserved for consultations and other work, leaving some flexibility to the Chairperson)

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
		<b>1</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>2</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>3</b> <i>No meetings</i>
<b>6</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>7</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>8</b> <b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (review of the draft final report) (a.m.) <b>Working Group B</b> (p.m.)	<b>9</b> <b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (review of the draft final report)	<b>10</b> <b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (review of the draft final report)
<b>13</b> <b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (practical arrangements for the FCSP)	<b>14</b> <b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (rules of procedure)	<b>15</b> <b>Committee on Preparations FSCSP</b> (rules of procedure)	<b>16</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (a.m.) (visa issues) (p.m.) (agreements)	<b>17</b> <b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (a.m.) (rules of procedure) <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (p.m.) (confidentiality)
<b>20</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (misconduct)	<b>21</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (financial rules)	<b>22</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget)  <b>Task Force on Analytical Database</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget)  <b>Task Force on Analytical Database</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (staff regulations)  <b>Task Force on Analytical Database</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget)  <b>Task Force on Analytical Issues</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget)  <b>Task Force on Analytical Issues</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget) <b>Committee on Relations with the Host Country</b> (p.m.) <b>Task Force on Analytical Issues</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW top structure) (p.m.) (data systems)	<b>31</b> <b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (editing of the draft final report) <b>Working Group A</b> (p.m.)

FEBRUARY 1997

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical industry) <b>Task Force on Inspection Equipment</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical industry) <b>Task Force on Inspection Equipment</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical industry) <b>Task Force on Inspection Equipment</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical industry)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (editing of the draft final report)</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical weapons and OACW)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical weapons and OACW)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical weapons and OACW)</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (chemical weapons and OACW)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Planning for March</b> (in preparation for meeting on 3 March)</p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (inspection procedures and challenge inspection)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (inspection procedures and challenge inspection)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (inspection procedures and challenge inspection)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (inspection procedures and challenge inspection)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Committee on Preparations for FSCSP</b> (editing of the draft final report)</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (technical cooperation and assistance)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget) (a.m.) <b>Issues of Working Group B</b> (technical cooperation and assistance)</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget) (a.m.) <b>Working Group B</b> (p.m.)</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (a.m.) (staff regulations) <b>Working Group A</b> (p.m.)</p>

**MARCH 1997**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Combined Meeting of WGs A and B</b> (to review and decide on arrangements for the final period)	<b>Issues of Working Group A</b> (OPCW Budget)			
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>31</b>				
<i>No meetings</i>				

**A P R I L 1 9 9 7**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
	<b>1</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>2</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>3</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>4</b> <i>No meetings</i>	
<b>7</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>8</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>9</b> <b>Sixteenth Session</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Sixteenth Session</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Sixteenth Session</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Sixteenth Session</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Sixteenth Session</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Sixteenth Session</b>	<b>16</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>17</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>18</b> <i>No meetings</i>	
<b>21</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>22</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>23</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>24</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>25</b> <i>No meetings</i>	
<b>28</b> <i>No meetings</i>	<b>29</b> <b>Entry into Force of the Convention</b>				