
Sixth Session
(11- 15 April 1994)

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Introduction

1. In accordance with its decision recorded in the Report of the Fifth Session of the Preparatory Commission (PC-V/12), the Commission convened its Sixth Session in The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands, from 11 - 15 April 1994.

1.1 As of 7 April 1994, 157 States had signed the Convention. The following three States signed the Convention between 20 December 1993 and 7 April 1994: Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, United Republic of Tanzania.

1.2 One new instrument of ratification was deposited during the last intersessional period, by Norway (7 April 1994). The number of ratifications now stands at five.

1.3 The following 79 Member States participated in the Sixth Session of the Commission:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

AGENDA ITEM ONE - Opening of the Session

2. The Session was opened by the Chairman, Ambassador Grigory Berdennikov of the Russian Federation, at 11:00 a.m. on 11 April 1994.

AGENDA ITEM TWO - Adoption of the Agenda

3. On 11 April 1994 the Commission adopted the following agenda for its Sixth Session:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the Executive Secretary
4. Consideration of the Report of Working Group A and appropriate action
5. Consideration of the Report of Working Group B and appropriate action
6. Report of the Credentials Committee
7. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
8. Any other business
9. Date and agenda for the next Session
10. Adoption of the Report and closure of the Session

AGENDA ITEM THREE - Report of the Executive Secretary

4. The Commission **noted** the Report of the Executive Secretary, Mr Ian R Kenyon (PC-VI/16). The Report covered the period from 20 December 1993 to 7 April 1994.

4.1 In relation to paragraph 1.3 of the Executive Secretary's Report, the Commission **requested** the Executive Secretary to keep progress towards the attainment of 65 ratifications under continuous review, and to optimise the use of the Commission's resources in regard to triggering Phase II of the Commission's activity.

AGENDA ITEM FOUR - Report of Working Group A

5. On 15 April 1994, the Chairman of Working Group A, Ambassador Jorge Morales Pedraza of Cuba, introduced the Report of Working Group A (PC-VI/A/5). The Commission took the following action in relation to matters arising out of the Report of Working Group A:

Staff and Financial Regulations - Financial Rules of the Commission

5.1 The Commission:

- (a) **found** that the Financial Rules proposed by the Executive Secretary and suitably amended by him, taking into account the views of the Expert Group, were consistent with the Financial Regulations of the Commission. The Commission **approved** the Financial Rules;
- (b) **approved** the principle that the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Commission do not set a precedent for the Financial Regulations and Rules of the OPCW.

Staff and Financial Regulations - Staff Regulations and Rules of the Commission

5.2 The Commission:

- (a) **decided** that the issue of the tertiary education of eligible children of staff members be referred to the next meeting of the Expert Group on Administrative, Financial, and Personnel Matters for reconsideration with a view to the forwarding of recommendations at the latest to the Eighth Session

of the Commission. The Commission also decided to continue the interim arrangement for the provision of allowances for the tertiary education of eligible children of staff members as established by the Commission during its Fourth Session (paragraph 5.7.5 of PC-IV/23);

- (b) **found** that the Staff Rules proposed by the Executive Secretary and suitably amended by him, taking into account the views of the Expert Group, were consistent with the Staff Regulations of the Commission;
- (c) **approved** the principle that the Staff Regulations and Rules of the Commission do not set a precedent for the Staff Regulations and Rules of the OPCW;
- (d) **endorsed** the opinion of the Expert Group contained in paragraph 5 of its Report and emphasised the importance of properly applying Staff Regulation 4.2 in the recruitment of staff for the Secretariat, duly taking into account the relevant recommendations and decisions of the Commission.

Transitional Arrangements

5.3 The Commission **noted** that the commitment of the OPCW by the Commission in respect of contracts for movable property and the continuance of warranties and maintenance in terms of such contracts should be addressed in future contracts entered into by the Commission.

OPCW Building

5.4 The Commission **took note** of the statements by the Netherlands delegation (paragraph 4 of PC-VI/HC/4/Add.1) that consideration was being given to constructing a Main Conference Room of sufficient size to accommodate meetings of the Conference of the States Parties and it confirmed its willingness to cooperate in realising adequate facilities for meetings of the Conference of the States Parties beyond the terms of the Netherlands Bid, regardless of whether or not a Main Conference Room was constructed on the NCC/Catsheuvel site. The Commission **reviewed and adopted** the Draft Consolidated Programme of Requirements for a Permanent OPCW Building (PC-VI/A/4).

Data Systems

5.5 The Commission:

- (a) **adopted** the general functional requirements for compliance with the requirements of the Convention, including the Verification and Confidentiality Annexes for inclusion in the IMS design paper (Annex 1 of PC-VI/A/WP.10);
- (b) **approved** the principles for the OPCW's computer security policy (Annex II of PC-VI/A/WP.10).

Programme of Work and Budget

5.6 The Commission **approved**:

- (a) the Proposed Calendar for 1994 (PC-VI/A/WP.11, Annex 1);
- (b) the Proposed Structure for the 1995 Draft Budget of the Commission (PC-VI/A/WP.11, Annex 2).

Other Matters

Assessment of Three New Member States (PC-VI/11)

5.7 The Commission **approved** the following changes to the list of assessments for Phase I and II of the 1994 Budget with respect to the three new Member States of the Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the United Republic of Tanzania:

Member States	Date of Signature	Scale (%) United Nations	Scale (%) Commission	Assessment in Dutch Guilders Part I, 1994	Assessment in Dutch Guilders Part II, 1994
United Republic of Tanzania	25-02-94	0.01	0.01000	2,582	1,653
Bahamas	02-03-94	0.02	0.02001	5,164	3,306
Saint Kitts and Nevis	16-03-94	0.01	0.01000	2,295	1,469
TOTAL				10,041	6,428

Re-assessment of Kyrgyzstan

5.8 The Commission **noted** that, for the 1993 Budget of the Preparatory Commission, Kyrgyzstan was incorrectly assessed at a rate of 0.01 percent, and **decided** to adopt a rate of 0.06 percent as the correct rate of assessment for 1993.

5.9 The Commission **noted** that Kyrgyzstan will accordingly be assessed for the difference between the two rates, which will result in an additional contribution of USD 4,435 for the 1993 Budget.

Re-assessment of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic

5.10 The Commission **noted** that as a result of the action taken by the United Nations in adjusting assessment rates for Member States, the assessment rates for the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic should be adjusted from 0.37 to 0.42 and from 0.18 to 0.13 respectively. The Commission also **noted** that the Czech Republic will be assessed for an additional contribution of USD 4,292 for the 1993 Budget and that the assessment for the Slovak Republic will be USD 11,493 for the 1993 Budget in lieu of USD 15,976.

Proposed Staffing Re-adjustments

5.11 The Commission **adopted** the recommendation that it authorise the Executive Secretary to accelerate the filling of the three positions contained in paragraph 3(b) of the Executive Secretary's Note PC-VI/13: (P-4 Assistant to the Director of Verification, P-3 Safety Officer Information; GS Clerk Health, Records). This acceleration should not include by-passing the usual procedures of the circulation of Vacancy Notices to Member States. Adequate time should be given for Member States to respond. The Commission requested the Expert Group on Programme of Work and Budget to consider the other proposals contained in the Executive Secretary's Note and to make recommendations to it at its Seventh Session.

AGENDA ITEM FIVE - Report of Working Group B

6. On 15 April 1994 the Chairman of Working Group B, Mr Sylwin Gizowski of Poland, introduced the Report of Working Group B (PC-VI/B/8). The Commission took the following action in relation to matters arising out of the Report of Working Group B:

Confidentiality

6.1 The Commission **approved** the draft OPCW Classification System for Confidential Information annexed to the Second Interim Report of the Expert Group and **adopted** it mutatis mutandis as the Classification System for Confidential Information of the Preparatory Commission.

Chemical Industry Facilities

6.2 The Commission:

- (a) **adopted** the understandings recorded in paragraph 18 of the Chairman's Paper to PC-VI/B/WP.2 (risk assessment of a Schedule 2 plant site), as well as in Appendix B of PC-IV/B/WP.5, paragraph 19 of the Chairman's Paper (frequency, duration, and intensity of inspection) and in paragraphs 21 to 24 (verification at "mixed plant sites") of the same Chairman's Paper;
- (b) **adopted** the agenda for the Second Combined Meeting of the Group with industry representatives, circulated to Member States in the Note by the Executive Secretary (PC-VI/B/7).

Chemical Weapons Production Facilities

6.3 The Commission **expressed concern** at the lack of progress in the Expert Group on Chemical Weapons Production Facilities and at the serious nature of existing differences on key issues. The Commission **urged** delegations to intensify efforts to resolve the outstanding issues.

Equipment

6.4 The Commission **adopted** the criteria for the designation of laboratories by the Organisation. Such laboratories should:

- (a) have established an internationally recognised quality assurance system;
- (b) have obtained accreditation by an internationally recognised accreditation body for tasks for which they are seeking designation; and
- (c) regularly participate and perform successfully in inter-laboratory proficiency tests. Analytical laboratories should obtain satisfactory results analysing control samples distributed by the Organisation.

Training

6.5 The Commission **adopted** the Guidelines for the Certification of Training Courses Offered by Member States as Part of the General Training Scheme (Appendix 1 to PC-VI/B/WP.7).

Chemical Weapons Storage Facilities

6.6 The Commission **adopted** the following guidelines with respect to the applicability of bilateral/multilateral verification procedures:

- (a) the applicability of any bilateral or multilateral verification agreements be assessed against the criteria of consistency, comprehensives, and effectiveness in accordance with the principles and provisions noted in the Chairman's Paper to PC-VI/B/WP.9;
- (b) if complementary verification measures related to any bilateral/multilateral agreement have been implemented by the Executive Council, the Director-General should report to the Executive Council on the verification activities taken by the parties to the bilateral/multilateral agreement and on the complementary measures. This should include an assessment of their effectiveness;
- (c) should the Director-General have uncertainties at any time about the effectiveness of any bilateral/multilateral inspection regime he shall approach the States Parties concerned for clarification. If the uncertainties cannot be removed or if the facts established are of a nature to suggest that obligations undertaken under the Convention have not been met, the Director-General shall inform the Executive Council without delay; and
- (d) if the Executive Council finds reason to doubt the effectiveness of any bilateral/multilateral agreement, it should consider directing the implementation of the Organisation's verification regime for the States Parties

concerned. The Executive Council should take appropriate measures aimed at clarifying the issues prior to directing such action.

Safety Procedures

6.7 The Commission:

- (a) **approved** the revised draft Health and Safety Policy, Appendix 1 to the Chairman's Paper to PC-VI/B/WP.10, with the addition of the following sentence to paragraph 3.3.3 (c): "This is without prejudice to the obligations of a State Party to provide access to an inspected facility for the purpose of carrying out inspection activities, in accordance with the Convention"; and
- (b) **adopted mutatis mutandis** the revised draft OPCW Health and Safety Policy as the Health and Safety Policy of the Preparatory Commission.

Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities

6.8 The Commission **adopted** the following recommendations of Working Group B:

- (a) the development of the detailed text for the inspection guidelines should be undertaken by the Secretariat and incorporated into draft inspection manual(s) which will, at the appropriate time, be submitted to the Commission and finally for approval by the Conference of the States Parties;
- (b) the Secretariat should establish a database on methods and technologies for chemical weapons destruction and encourage Member States to provide information for incorporation in this database (paragraph 23 of the Chairman's Paper attached to PC-VI/B/WP.14);
- (c) Member States should be encouraged to assist the Secretariat in compiling information relevant to the definition of Article II, paragraph 1 (b) and (c) for presentation to the Group assigned by Working Group B to consider this issue;
- (d) the concept and guidelines on transitional verification arrangements should be developed by the Group;
- (e) the guidelines for the provision of the detailed facility information required in accordance with Part IV(A), paragraph 31, contained in Appendix 2 of the Chairman's Paper;
- (f) the deadlines for the above detailed facility information in respect to Category 2 and 3 chemical weapons, as elaborated in Charts 1 and 2 of the Chairman's Paper and the further recommendation on this issue contained in paragraph 18 of the Chairman's Paper;
- (g) the four sets of guidelines for inspection activities, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the Chairman's Paper;

- (h) the concept expressed by the Group concerning destroyed chemical weapons munitions retained for display or training purposes as elaborated in Appendix 4 of the Chairman's Paper;
- (i) the criteria developed by the Group for the review of the applicability and sufficiency of bilateral/multilateral verification procedures as contained in Appendix 5 of the Chairman's Paper;
- (j) that an appropriate line in the Budget should be maintained for installed monitoring equipment that has to be provided by the Secretariat (paragraph 24 of the Chairman's Paper).

AGENDA ITEM SIX - Report of the Credentials Committee

7. The Commission **noted** the Report of the Credentials Committee (PC-VI/20), which was presented by Professor Natalino Ronzitti of Italy, the Chairman of the Committee.

7.1 At the time of the Sixth Session, the following 103 Member States had Representatives to the Commission, accredited or provisionally accepted :

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Western Samoa, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN - Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

8. The Commission **noted** the Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (PC-VI/HC/4 and PC-VI/HC/4/Add.1), which was presented by Mr S Kisselev of the Russian Federation on behalf of Ambassador Grigory Berdennikov, the Chairman of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT - Any other business

9. (a) **Clerical Errors in the Certified Copy of the Convention**

The Preparatory Commission for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons adopted the following decision:

"Having compared the authentic text in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and On Their Destruction, with the records of the 1992 Session of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the records of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, and having found that those texts contain clerical errors which require rectification,

Considering the Report (PC-VI/7* and Corr.1) in this regard submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Preparatory Commission during its Sixth Session,

Bearing in mind Article 79 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depository of Multilateral Agreements,

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as depository of the Convention, to take the necessary steps to have the errors rectified in the authentic text of the Convention in the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages in accordance with the tables attached to PC-VI/7* and Corr.1,
2. Authorises the Executive Secretary to provide assistance to the depository in order to carry out this procedure expeditiously and within the required time-limit,
3. Calls upon all signatory States and States entitled to become Parties to the Convention to take into account the suggested corrections as approved by the Commission in the relevant official version of the Convention."

(b) **Functioning and Plan of Activities of Expert Groups (PC-VI/14)**

The Commission :

- (i) **endorsed** the recommendations elaborated by the Friends of the Chairmen of Working Groups A and B concerning the improved functioning of Expert Groups;
- (ii) **noted** and **endorsed** the Plan of Activities for Meetings of Expert Groups under the Purview of Working Groups A and B for the Seventh Intersessional Period and **adopted** the attached Schedule of Meetings for the next intersessional period.

(c) **Statements regarding Ratification**

- (i) The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation informed the Sixth Session of the Commission in his message that the Committees of the Russian State Duma have already started preparations for the ratification of the Convention. Russian Ministries and Agencies are now completing the development of the concept for chemical weapons destruction, the adoption of which will be of the utmost importance for the ratification of the Convention by Russia.
- (ii) The German delegation announced that Germany was making encouraging progress in its ratification process and that it was hoping for an early ratification of the Convention in mid 1994.
- (iii) The United States Alternate Representative stated that United States Senate hearings were underway with the goal of completing the ratification process by mid July 1994.
- (iv) The Bulgarian delegation announced that good progress regarding the consideration of ratification of the Convention in Bulgaria had been made, that the Bulgarian Government had submitted a formal proposal for ratification to the National Assembly, and that the delegation was hoping for an early ratification of the Convention as soon as possible, probably in mid 1994.
- (v) The Australian delegation announced that, following the enactment on 25 February 1994 of implementing legislation, Australia has completed all domestic steps for ratification and will shortly be lodging its instrument of ratification with the depositary of the Convention.
- (vi) The Netherlands delegation referred to its efforts with regard to the national implementation of the Convention, as set out in PC-VI/A/WP.6, and expressed its willingness to provide all possible information that might assist Member States in their preparations for ratification of the Convention. The delegation further confirmed the offer of the Netherlands Government, contained in PC-VI/B/WP.18, to train under the supervision of the Secretariat 80 officials from developing countries for various tasks to be undertaken by their future National Authorities in relation to the national implementation of the Convention. The course will be given to 80 participants from developing countries selected by the Secretariat. Round-trip travel costs, accommodation and tuition fees will be included in the offer.
- (vii) The Mexican delegation stated that, as a peace-loving country, Mexico attaches great importance to general and complete disarmament and in this regard high gives priority to the early entry into force of the Convention. The Mexican delegation informed the Commission that the Mexican process of ratification is well underway and that Mexico

expects to be among the first 65 ratifying States, hopefully before the end of 1994. The Mexican delegation urged all Member States to accelerate their own ratification processes.

- (viii) The Romanian delegation stated that Romania is making good progress with its ratification process and that it hoped to be amongst the first 65 ratifying States.

(d) **Other Statements**

- (i) The Indonesian delegation made the following statement on behalf of the Asian Group in the English language:

"The Asian Group expressed its satisfaction with the progress made in the work of the Commission since the last Plenary Session and reiterates its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention which it hopes will be a model for future disarmament agreements. The Group emphasises the importance of the early preparation of proper implementation procedures to enable the earliest possible entry into force of the Convention.

The Asian Group, therefore, supports all efforts to improve the functioning of the Commission on the principle of universal participation in the activities of the Commission. Since many Asian Group Members have small delegations, simultaneous meetings must be avoided. The efforts to merge Expert Groups to enable meetings with a wider agenda are welcome, as are those decisions on the treatment of documents pertaining to unfinished business.

The Asian Group believes that the Convention strikes a delicate balance between verification of compliance and avoiding the hampering of legitimate activity. The Preparatory Commission has been set up to elaborate upon implementation procedures; it should refrain from adopting any decision that would be tantamount to rewriting parts of the Convention or reopen issues settled in the negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva.

The Asian Group trusts that efforts to ensure the widest possible geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat will be intensified to the utmost so that the Secretariat reflect properly the universality and diversity of its membership. Most of the Members of Asian Group exhort the Executive Secretary to maintain and increase transparency in the recruitment process and provide detailed information not only on the extent of representation of each nationality but also on the level and step at which their members are employed as permanent staff or as consultants. The Group welcomes efforts to increase the dissemination of vacancies and hopes that they will be circulated adequately in all regions and Commission languages. It is also essential to circulate the

particulars of successful candidates. In this context, the Group encourages extension of the deadline for applications for posts of trainee inspectors/inspection assistants to a fixed date such as 15 May 1994.

The Asian Group is of the opinion that satisfactory implementation of Article XI and other related provisions of the Convention will enhance its universality and effectiveness.

The Asian Group reiterates its view that the structure of the Commission should be appropriately based upon the UN common system which it believes to be the only agreed basis of the functional regulations of international organisations.

The Asian Group requests that the Commission be informed in advance of any activities outside its purview which are authorised by the Executive Secretary to be undertaken by staff members of the Secretariat."

- (ii) The Japanese delegation made the following statement in the English language regarding the statement of the Asian Group:

"Japan is of the view that the Statement of the Asian Group is unnecessary since the views of interested delegations of the Asian Group have been already stated.

However, Japan agreed on the delivery of this statement in order to accommodate a strong wish among members of the Asian Group to have this statement.

Japan regrets that some controversial issues are included in this statement and Japan is not necessarily in full agreement with this statement."

- (iii) The French delegation made the following statement on behalf of the Western European and Other Group (WEOG) in the French language:

"At the Fifth Plenary of the Preparatory Commission, last December, the members of the WEOG expressed their commitment to work for the early and effective implementation of the Convention and to seek to ratify the Convention as soon as possible, subject to their constitutional constraints and legislative timetables.

The members of the WEOG reiterate their commitment to early ratification and are confident that this is shared by all members of the Commission without any precondition. They were pleased to hear of the progress towards ratification of the Convention in a number of countries, in particular the recent ratification by Norway, and that

Australia will soon follow suit. They note with satisfaction the message addressed to the Commission by the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation and welcome his willingness to continue to cooperate actively with the Commission with a view to resolve all outstanding issues.

The results of the last intersessional period are an encouragement to redouble the efforts of all members of the Preparatory Commission to complete the remaining tasks and thus set up the mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention. We should concentrate on those tasks which are critical to implementation, as set out, inter alia, by the Paris Resolution. Early entry into force, universality of ratification, and compliance with the Convention will provide practical opportunities to resolve issues related to national responsibilities. This should constitute a positive incentive for widespread ratification of the Convention and active support for its implementation."

- (iv) The following statement was made by the delegation of Ecuador on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group in the Spanish language:

"The Latin American and Caribbean countries reaffirm their strong commitment to the aim of disarmament. Therefore, they attach great importance to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the future Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Several countries within our region are already appointing officials to participate actively in the Expert Group meetings for the intensive stage of negotiations to be held this year. By so doing, the Latin American and Caribbean countries wish to show their interest in the successful conclusion of the work of the Preparatory Commission within the scheduled deadlines which were agreed to in principle. At the same time, several countries of our region have already initiated their process of ratification of the Convention and, in some cases the structure of the future National Authorities is already in place.

For the Latin American and Caribbean countries the establishment of the OPCW entails a huge national effort in economic terms. Nevertheless, we are resolutely committed to the aim of eliminating all weapons of mass destruction, and in this case chemical weapons, from the face of the earth.

Therefore, the Latin American and Caribbean Group believes that no effort should be spared to improve the functioning of the Preparatory Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat. In this respect, we call on all Members of the Preparatory Commission to discuss with political resolve the question of international cooperation on the peaceful use of the chemical industry for achieving, by consensus, the broadest possible implementation of Article XI of the Convention. We

are in favour of approving the proposed reorganisation of the work of the Preparatory Commission. We are confident that, in so doing, we shall be contributing to our active participation in the Expert Groups.

We share the concerns expressed by several delegations during this Session with respect to the distribution of posts within the Provisional Technical Secretariat, and express our appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the presentation of his paper on this particular subject which was circulated during this Plenary Session. We urge the Executive Secretary to continue to act in this way during the forthcoming sessions of the Preparatory Commission by specifying the grades and the steps assigned within each grade. We encourage the Executive Secretary to do his best to achieve the broadest possible geographical distribution in selecting the trainees for the inspector/inspection assistant training courses to be held soon, since this will contribute decisively to the achievement of transparency in the verification tasks of the future OPCW and, hence, to the universalisation of the Convention on Chemical Weapons and to international respect for the future tasks of the OPCW."

AGENDA ITEM NINE - Date and Agenda of Seventh Session

10. The Commission **decided** to hold its Seventh Session from 27 June to 1 July 1994 in The Hague, Kingdom of the Netherlands, and also **decided** to consider the following provisional agenda for adoption at the opening of its Seventh Session:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the Executive Secretary
4. Consideration of the Report of Working Group A and appropriate action
5. Consideration of the Report of Working Group B and appropriate action
6. Report of the Credentials Committee
7. Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
8. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission
9. Any other business
10. Date and agenda for the Eighth Session
11. Adoption of the Report and closure of the Session

AGENDA ITEM TEN - Adoption of the Report and Closure of the Sixth Session

11. The Commission **adopted** its Report, and the Chairman closed the Sixth Session at 14:55 on 15 April 1994.