



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/492/2005

21 April 2005

Original: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION TO STATES PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
DECLARATIONS CLEARING HOUSE**

1. The report of the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the First Review Conference”) noted the efforts of the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), “consistent with its responsibilities under the Convention, to cooperate with the States Parties in ensuring that declarations submitted in accordance with the Convention were full and accurate, *inter alia* by clarifying ambiguities and discrepancies and by providing technical assistance and technical evaluation to States Parties in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The First Review Conference encouraged the Secretariat to continue these efforts, in close consultation with the States Parties and their National Authorities” (paragraph 7.33 of RC-1/5, dated 9 May 2003).
2. Further, at its Thirty-Sixth Session the Executive Council recognised the need to continue work on the clarification of declarations (EC-36/DEC.7, dated 26 March 2004).
3. Accordingly, the Secretariat now offers interested National Authorities the possibility of benefiting from the services of a Declarations Clearing House, a service that is being offered on a trial basis until the end of 2005. The Clearing House will provide an additional opportunity to States Parties to discuss their draft declarations with the Secretariat before submitting them officially to the OPCW.
4. The Clearing House is intended to further facilitate the submission of declarations and to improve their accuracy.
5. Under the terms of the service, the Secretariat will review draft declarations informally, either online or, when this is not possible, at OPCW headquarters in The Hague, normally with the Permanent Representation in question. The Secretariat will also consider other possibilities on a case-by-case basis, such as direct clarification sessions at OPCW headquarters or in the State Party in question between its National Authority and Secretariat staff from the Declarations Branch. The Secretariat may be able to sponsor such sessions, depending on the availability of resources.



6. National Authorities are encouraged to use the opportunities created by the Declarations Clearing House well in advance of the deadlines established in the Convention for declarations on past and on anticipated activities.
7. National Authorities that are interested in taking advantage of the Clearing House, or that would like more information about it, are invited to contact the Implementation Support Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Requests may also be sent by fax to +31 (0)70 306 3535, or by e-mail to ipb@opcw.org.

- - - 0 - - -