

PREFACE

This paper was first published in May 1990 for distribution to Canadian government agencies in order to promote discussion on issues related to the proposed Chemical Weapons Convention. The issue of toxicity testing in relation to the proposed Convention has not been discussed in detail since March 1982 and, as noted in the present rolling text (CD/961), there might be a need for these procedures to "be supplemented or modified and/or, if necessary, reviewed." This paper reviews more current procedures for toxicity determinations and compares them with those described in an annex to the rolling text. It concludes that it would be appropriate to carry out a careful review of the existing annex on toxicity determinations in view of the changes in the methodology of toxicity testing that have taken place in recent years in academia and in industry.

The paper was written by consultants from the Toxicology Research Centre in the University of Saskatchewan in conjunction with the Verification Research Unit of External Affairs and International Trade Canada. The paper and its recommendations are intended to promote discussion and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Canadian government.