

TEXT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PREPARATORY COMMISSION 1/

1. For the purpose of carrying out the necessary preparations for the effective operation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, and for preparing for the first session of the Conference of the States Parties of this Convention, the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") shall be established.
2. The Depositary of the Convention shall convene the Commission not later than 30 days after the Convention has been signed by 50 States. The Commission shall be convened at the venue of the Organisation.
3. The Commission shall be composed of all States which sign the Convention before its entry into force. Each signatory State shall have one representative in the Commission, who may be accompanied by alternates and advisers.
4. The expenses of the Commission including of the provisional Technical Secretariat, shall be met by the States signatories to the Convention, participating in the Commission, in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment, adjusted to take into account differences between the United Nations membership and the participation of States signatories in the Commission and timing of signature. The Commission and the provisional Technical Secretariat may also benefit from voluntary contributions.
5. All decisions of the Commission should be taken by consensus. If notwithstanding the efforts of representatives to achieve consensus, an issue comes up for voting, the Chairman of the Commission shall defer the vote for 24 hours and during this period of deferment shall make every effort to facilitate achievement of consensus, and shall report to the Commission prior to the end of the period. If consensus is not possible at the end of 24 hours, the Commission shall take decisions on questions of procedure by a simple majority of the members present and voting. Decisions on matters of substance shall be taken by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. When the issue arises as to whether the question is one of substance or not, that question shall be treated as a matter of substance unless otherwise decided by the Commission by the majority required for decisions on matters of substance.

1/ The provisions on the Commission could be contained in a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly commending the Convention or in an appropriate document associated with it or in a resolution annexed to the Final Act adopting the Convention at a Signatory Conference. In the latter case the first sentence of paragraph 1 should read: "There is hereby established the Preparatory Commission for the Organisation on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for the purpose of....."