

## CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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### Working Paper

#### The order of destruction of chemical weapons

1. Over the past few years the issue of order of destruction of chemical weapons has been paid a lot of attention in the negotiations on a global ban on chemical weapons. A number of working papers were devoted to this subject. 1/ The issue has also been subject to intensive consultations by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, the result of which is reflected in the Chairman's paper included in Appendix II, pages 92 and 93 of CD/795 of 2 February 1988.

2. As is already stated in the Annex to Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the rolling text (CD/795, page 41) the elaboration of the order of destruction shall be built on the following considerations:

- undiminished security for all States during the entire destruction stage;
- confidence-building in the early part of the destruction stage;
- gradual acquisition of experience in the course of destroying chemical weapons stocks;
- applicability, irrespective of the actual composition of the stockpiles and the method chosen for the destruction of the chemical weapons.

Among these points, the principle of maintaining undiminished security for all States during the entire destruction stage is of paramount importance. It is the basic yardstick for assessing proposed solutions to the question of the order of destruction of chemical weapons.

Recently, attention has even more focused on the maintenance of undiminished security during the envisaged 10-year destruction phase due to the different sizes of the chemical weapon stocks existing at the start of the 10-year destruction phase.