

## ARTICLE VIII

### THE ORGANIZATION

#### General Provisions

1. There is hereby established the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objectives of this Convention, to ensure the implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties.
2. All States Parties to this Convention shall be members of the Organization. A State Party shall not be deprived of its membership in the Organization.
3. There are hereby established as the organs of the Organization the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and the Secretariat.
4. The verification activities described in this Convention shall be conducted in the least intrusive manner possible consistent with the timely and efficient accomplishment of their objectives. The Organization shall request only the information and data necessary to fulfil its responsibilities under this Convention.
5. The Organization shall take every precaution to protect the confidentiality of information on civil and military activities and facilities in the implementation of the Convention and, in particular, shall abide by the provisions set out in the Confidentiality Annex. Information related to States Parties' continuing compliance with the Convention that has been authorized by the Director-General, taking into account the general principles for the handling of confidential information as set out in the Annex on Confidentiality, shall be transmitted to all States Parties by the Organization on a routine basis.
6. In undertaking its verification activities the Organization shall consider measures to avoid unnecessary duplication of bilateral or multilateral arrangements for providing confidence in compliance and to make use of advances in science and technology, provided that such measures do not in any way detract from the obligations assumed by States Parties under this Convention.
7. The costs of the Organization's activities shall be paid by States Parties in accordance with the assessment scale adopted by the United Nations for its general budget, adjusted to take into account differences in membership between the United Nations and this Convention, and subject to the provisions of Articles IV and V of this Convention. Financial contributions of States Parties to the Preparatory Commission shall be deducted in an appropriate way from their contributions to the regular budget.