

Principles and Order of Destruction of Chemical Weapons

During the second part of the session the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee conducted consultations on the Principles and Order of Destruction of Chemical Weapons. As a starting point was taken Annex IV, Section III, of the rolling text (CD/CW/WP.167). During the consultations the following elements and ideas emerged, which, in the view of the Chairman, could constitute building blocks in the further search for solutions to the problems involved.

1. The elaboration of the Order of Destruction shall build on the 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 and applicability irrespective of the actual composition of the stockpiles and the methods chosen for the destruction of the chemical weapons.
2. All States Parties possessing chemical weapons shall begin destruction not later than one year after entry into force for it of the Convention, and all stockpiles must have been destroyed by the end of the tenth year.
3. The entire destruction period is divided into nine annual periods. 1/

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1/ The question arises whether such a division would be sufficient or whether it could be useful also to group the annual periods into a few phases with different targets set for each phase. For example, the view was expressed that during an initial phase the destruction process could be such that a quantitative levelling out between different stockpiles of State Parties takes place.