

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

Western Group Working Paper

1. Introduction

As shown by Dr Rautio's Technical Instrumentation Group, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee has need from time to time for technical support not normally available in Geneva. This Paper and attached Flow Chart describe a mechanism for establishing expert Study Groups under a Technical Co-ordinator to meet this need.

2. Choice of Topics

The number of topics to be taken up and their timing should be determined by need, available resources and expertise. The procedure for proposing new topics should not be over-formalised. Any delegation or Working Group Chairman would put a suggestion firstly to the Technical Co-ordinator (see Section 4). This new topic, plus any additional information or suggestion from the Technical Co-ordinator would be presented to the Extended Bureau and then passed, with its recommendations, to the Ad Hoc Committee for approval and establishment of a Study Group. The Ad Hoc Committee would allocate resources to the Study Group and establish time frames for the study. It would also confirm the Study Group's Chairman and Rapporteur and call for the nomination of experts.

3. Method of Working

- i) No more than three or four topics should be under active consideration at any time. Topics could be taken up by study groups similar to last year's Technical Instrumentation Group with additional experts in the particular field of study as required provided by Member States to focus on specific technical aspects.
- ii) The process would not necessarily be limited to CD sessions and could involve several stages: an initial meeting of perhaps a week, time for further research and reflection, and a second meeting during which a report would be prepared for submission to the Ad Hoc Committee within a specified time-frame. Further meetings and reports could be arranged if necessary.