

Article X: Assistance

1. Each State Party has the right to request assistance [for protection against chemical weapons] through the Executive Council:

(a) in case it considers that chemical weapons have been used against it;

(b) in case it has serious reasons to believe that there is a threat of use of chemical weapons against it;

[(c) in case it feels that its security has been, or is likely to be, threatened as a result of any other violation of the Convention by another State Party or of the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling possession of chemical weapons by a State not Party to the Convention or of the transfer of chemical weapons to any such State.]

2. Such a request shall be substantiated by relevant information supporting its validity.

3. The Technical Secretariat shall promptly inform all States Parties about the request.

4. The Executive Council shall: 1/

(a) meet [immediately] to evaluate the request in the light of the information provided; 2/

(b) if so deemed necessary, instruct the Technical Secretariat, within ... hours, to initiate an investigation of the facts related to the alleged use or threat of use and, when applicable, to establish an inventory of the specific assistance needed; [in appropriate cases, the Executive Council may direct that the investigation should include on-site inspection;] if an on-site inspection takes place, its conduct shall be governed by the principles and rules established in Article IX of the Convention. 3/

(c) on the basis of the results of the investigation carried out by the Technical Secretariat, decide on whether to request the provision of assistance; the decision to request assistance shall require a two-thirds majority;

(d) inform all States Parties of its decision.

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1/ A view was expressed that assistance should be provided automatically in case of actual use of chemical weapons. Another view was expressed that assistance should be provided on a voluntary basis.

2/ Some reservations have been expressed about the ability of the Executive Council to assess "threat of use".

3/ A view was expressed that all aspects related to investigations and fact-finding procedures should be dealt with in the context of Article IX.