

7. Each State Party has the right to request and, subject to the procedures set forth in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 below, to receive assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons if it considers that:

- chemical weapons have been used against it;
- it faces actions or activities by any State which are prohibited for States Parties by Article I of this Convention.

8. The request, substantiated by relevant information, shall be made to the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat, who shall immediately inform all States Parties and the Executive Council about it.

The Director-General shall initiate within 24 hours an investigation in order to provide foundation for action, complete it within 72 hours and forward a report to the Executive Council. If further time is required for completion of the investigation, an interim report shall be submitted within the same time-frame. The additional time required for investigation shall not exceed 72 hours and may be extended by similar periods. Reports at the end of each additional period shall be submitted to the Executive Council. The investigation shall, as appropriate and in conformity with the request and the information accompanying it, establish relevant facts related to the request as well as the types and scope of assistance and protection needed.

9. The Executive Council shall meet not later than 24 hours after receiving an investigation report to consider the situation and shall take a decision by simple majority in the following 24 hours on whether to instruct the Technical Secretariat to provide assistance. The Technical Secretariat shall immediately communicate to all States Parties and relevant international organizations the investigation report and the decision taken by the Executive Council. When so decided by the Executive Council, the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat shall provide assistance immediately. For this purpose, he may cooperate with the requesting State Party, other States Parties and relevant international organizations. The States Parties shall make the fullest possible efforts to provide assistance.

10. In case the information available from the ongoing investigation or other reliable sources would give sufficient proof that there are victims of use of chemical weapons and immediate action is indispensable, the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat shall inform all States Parties and shall take emergency measures of assistance, using the resources the Conference of States Parties has placed at his disposal for such contingencies. The Director-General shall keep the Executive Council informed of action he is taking in this respect.