

"6. Working hypothesis regarding a basic definition of chemical weapons.

(a) The definition should comprise only such concepts which are necessary for the purpose of the convention.

(b) The definition should express the typical effects of chemical weapons, i.e. that their effects are due to the utilization of the toxic properties of chemicals to cause death or other harm.

Comments:

Weapons utilizing other properties of chemicals, e.g. radioactivity or their content of energy, are not to be considered as chemical weapons even if such chemicals happen to be more or less toxic.

It may be a question of presentation where in the definition this idea should be expressed, whether in an introductory part of the definition or in the body of the definition.

Suggestions have been made that reference has to be made to the use in war, armed conflict or combat in this connection.

The formulation suggested about toxic properties of chemicals could imply a reference to toxic effects of chemical weapons to all living organisms.

(c) The term 'chemical weapons' should be applied to each of three different categories of items:

(i) Toxic chemicals which meet certain criteria, and their precursors.

(ii) Munitions and devices which meet certain criteria. This category includes binary and other multi-component munitions or devices.

(iii) Equipment specifically designed for use directly in connection with the employment of such munitions or devices.

Comments:

The above mentioned part of the definition that chemical weapons utilize the toxic properties of chemicals could as well appear in the body, (i)-(iii), of the definition.

Another approach might be to define 'chemical warfare agent' and apply the criteria referred to under (a) to such chemical warfare agents.