

(b) The supertoxic lethal products that are not chemical weapons

It is true that this question cannot be evaded. In general, however, chemical agents of the kind in question are produced only in very limited quantities and for the perfectly lawful purpose of meeting the needs of pharmacopoeias, of agriculture or of pest control. It can be concluded, therefore, that diversion for hostile purposes is clearly less likely than for the three categories mentioned above, even if it cannot be ruled out entirely.

That is why it does not seem worthwhile at this stage compiling a list of those products but preferable to establish definitional criteria linked to the toxicity criterion mentioned above, to assess the products' potential to become chemical weapons, and to define a production threshold above which manufacture would have to be declared. It would also be necessary to define rules for the verification of production. These supertoxic lethal products could then be included in one of the three categories referred to above.

(c) The monitoring of new production and technologies

This question has not yet been raised in our committee, and yet it is a point of particular importance for the convention.

Obviously, the monitoring of new production and technologies can only be undertaken during the phase of administration of the convention. The body charged with it will therefore be a tool of the very highest importance for the Consultative Committee.

3. It is with this in mind and in order to secure the effective administration, under the best possible conditions, of the convention in the spheres referred to above that France suggests the creation of a scientific authority.

This body would act:

Immediately upon the declaration of stocks, to complete the compilation of the lists of products to be prohibited or monitored;

In the administration of the convention, to draw the attention of the Consultative Committee to new products or technologies warranting monitoring and to propose suitable verification measures and procedures.

In the context of verification, it could, in addition, be consulted by the Consultative Committee with regard to the institution of new, more efficient and less intrusive verification procedures.

This authority, to be called the Scientific Council, would comprise independent personages chosen for their scientific knowledge. It would meet annually or on the express request of the Consultative Committee. It would have only a consultative role and could not under any circumstances have decision-making power.
