

Article XIV: Duration, Withdrawal

Commentary

There seems to be a common understanding that this Convention should be of unlimited duration.

A wide range of opinions was expressed in regard to possible withdrawal of States Parties from the Convention and the procedures thereof.

(a) Views were expressed that the right of withdrawal should not be provided.

(b) Some delegations supported the idea that the right of withdrawal should not be exercised within a fixed, comparatively long period of time.

(c) Several delegations held the view that the withdrawal should depend on certain extraordinary circumstances. In the opinion of some delegations such circumstances might be differentiated according to their urgency and consequently different periods for withdrawal be granted. 1/ In this context a view was expressed that the Organization should be notified of the intention to withdraw and take appropriate steps within its competence to remedy the situation and prevent such a withdrawal.

(d) The opposite view was based on the premise that the right of withdrawal should be granted and be exercised in a very short period of time with few formalities, if any.

(e) The view was expressed that there should be no reference to the right of withdrawal in the CW Convention.

(f) One delegation proposed that this Article should deal only with the question of duration, which would depend on the destruction of all chemical weapons by States Parties.

Possible wording for Article XIV

1. This Convention should be of unlimited duration.

2. (a) States Parties shall not withdraw from this Convention;

- or alternatively -

(b) States Parties shall not withdraw from this Convention within the period of destruction of chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities;

- or alternatively -

1/ No specific suggestions in regard of the said periods have been made.