

(c) Technical Secretariat

The Advisory Committee and the Permanent Committee shall be assisted by a small Technical Secretariat, which shall be responsible for maintaining contacts with the members of the Advisory Committee and the Permanent Committee, for facilitating contacts between them and for assisting them in the performance of their duties.

The Technical Secretariat shall be responsible for, inter alia, designing and improving monitoring procedures (fact-finding and collection and impartial analysis of samples), in close consultation with the Advisory Committee, the Permanent Committee, national monitoring agencies and appropriate international organizations.

The Technical Secretariat shall be established as soon as this Protocol is opened for signature.

It shall be under the jurisdiction of the Advisory Committee and the Permanent Committee and shall report to them on its activities.

The depositary shall attend to the material organization of the Technical Secretariat.

The Technical Secretariat shall have its seat in (New York) (Geneva).

2. National monitoring agencies

The States members of the Advisory Committee shall endeavour to establish national monitoring agencies, with which the Advisory Committee and its organs shall maintain contact.

The national monitoring agencies shall assist the Advisory Committee and its organs in the performance of their duties.

3. Procedures

(a) A complaint may be brought before the Permanent Committee by one or more members of the Advisory Committee, by the depositary or by the Director of the Technical Secretariat if they have serious reasons to believe that the prohibition of the use in combat of chemical or bacteriological weapons has been violated.

The complaint must be set forth in detail and substantiated with evidence relating to the acts that are alleged.

(b) The Permanent Committee shall be convened by its Chairman immediately, or in any event not later than five days, after the complaint has been brought before it in accordance with paragraph 3 (a) above.

(c) The Committee shall first investigate whether a bilateral solution to the dispute is possible and shall offer it good offices for that purpose.

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