

4. Options for the structure of the laboratory network

70. There are three basic approaches for the structure of the laboratory network of the Technical Secretariat:

- A centralized structure, with a central, fully equipped analytical laboratory and possibly a synthetic laboratory, which will perform as many tasks as possible.

- A decentralized structure, consisting of a group of accredited laboratories not belonging to the Technical Secretariat. There would not be a central analytical laboratory operated by the Technical Secretariat, however, the Technical Secretariat would have a modest laboratory unit.

- An integrated approach, under which the Technical Secretariat will have fully equipped laboratories (central and regional) to perform all analytical tasks needed to carry out its analytical verification mandate, issued by the Executive Council, on a self-sufficient basis. The accredited laboratories would also carry out functions approved by the Technical Secretariat.

There are several intermediate options between these three basic approaches.

71. If the Organization were to have regional offices, a laboratory unit could be connected to each of them.

72. The minimum number of accredited analytical verification laboratories would have to be three. The Group felt that there cannot be a limit on the number of laboratories in the network. All laboratories applying for accreditation and fulfilling the requirements should be accredited. States Parties may wish to cooperate in establishing joint laboratories.