

5. Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as impeding the right of States parties to request from and provide assistance bilaterally and to conclude individual agreements with other States parties concerning the emergency procurement of assistance.

6. Each State party undertakes 1/ to provide assistance through the Organization and to this end to elect:

- (i) to contribute to the voluntary fund for assistance; and/or
- (ii) to conclude, if possible within six months after the entry into force of the Convention for it, agreements with the Organization concerning the procurement, upon demand, of assistance; and/or
- (iii) to declare within six months after the entry into force of the Convention for it the kind of assistance it might provide in response to an appeal by the Organization.

7. Each State party has the right to request and, subject to the procedures set forth in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 below, to receive assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons if it considers that:

- chemical weapons have been used against it;
- it faces actions or activities by any State which are prohibited for States parties by article I of this Convention.

8. The request, substantiated by relevant information, shall be made to the Director General of the Technical Secretariat, who shall immediately inform all States parties and the Executive Council about it.

The Director General of the Technical Secretariat shall initiate within 24 hours an investigation in order to provide foundation for action, complete it within 72 hours and forward a report to the Executive Council. If further time is required for completion of the investigation, an interim report shall be submitted within the same time frame. The investigation shall, as appropriate and in conformity with the request and the information accompanying it, establish relevant facts related to the request as well as the types and scope of assistance and protection needed. 2/ 3/

9. The Executive Council shall meet not later than 24 hours after receiving the investigation report to consider the situation and shall take a decision by simple majority in the following 24 hours on whether to instruct the Technical Secretariat to provide assistance. The Technical Secretariat shall immediately communicate to all States parties and relevant international organizations the investigation report and the decision taken by the Executive