

circumstances warranted and permitted), the international community might convert this commission into a more independent body (ie. one similar to that discussed above in para. B).

D. *Recommended First Phase Procedure*

54. As an initial step, this report recommends:

- That the initial screening of complaints be done by states representatives acting through a "Verification Commission". Consideration should be given to designating a specific individual (either a member of the Commission or the UN Secretary-General) to receive allegations of non-compliance.
- That, on receipt of an alleged violation of the CCW Convention, this Commission be convened in order to determine, within 48 hours of being assembled, whether specific allegations of gross violations of the Conventions warrant further investigation.
- That, if the Commission decides that a further investigation is warranted, it inform the States Parties of its decision and then commence the inquiry.
- That if the volume of allegations proves to be too high to be handled in this fashion, provision be made for the creation of a "CCW Verification Office" within the UN secretariat to provide a permanent capacity to screen allegations and convene the Verification Commission.

VI. *Investigative Procedures*

A. *Introduction*

55. A third element of an effective CCW verification regime would be an investigative capacity capable of collecting and compiling data as to whether widespread grave breaches were occurring. There are two principal investigative methods that could be employed in the context of monitoring compliance with the CCW Convention. These include, in descending order of effectiveness (a) on-site fact-finding missions, and (b) hearings and similar investigative procedures. These will be addressed in turn.

B. *On-site Fact-Finding*

56. These fact-finding missions typically involve investigations *in loco* by a group of experts (acting in their personal capacities or as representatives of parties to the agreement). In the field of international humanitarian and human rights law, there are several organisational models for fact-finding missions. *Inter alia*, these include the International Fact-Finding Commission