

ARTICLE X

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL WEAPONS

1. For the purposes of this Article, assistance means the coordination and delivery to States Parties of protection against chemical weapons, that covers, inter alia, the following areas: detection equipment and alarm systems, protective equipment, decontamination equipment and decontaminants, medical antidotes and treatments and advice on any of these protective measures.

2. Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted as impeding the right of any State Party to it to conduct research into, develop, produce, acquire, transfer or use means of protection against chemical weapons, for purposes not prohibited by the Convention.

3. All States Parties to the Convention undertake to facilitate, and shall have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information concerning means of protection against chemical weapons.

4. The Technical Secretariat shall establish within 180 days after the entry into force of the Convention and maintain, for the use of any requesting State Party, a data bank containing freely available information concerning various means of protection against chemical weapons as well as such information as may be provided by States Parties.

The Technical Secretariat shall also, within the resources available to it, and at the request of a State Party, provide expert advice and assist it in identifying how its programmes for the development and improvement of a protective capacity against chemical weapons could be implemented.

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

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

- (i) to contribute to the voluntary fund for assistance to be established by the Conference of the States Parties at its first session; and/or
- (ii) to conclude, if possible within 180 days 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 180 days 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. If, however, a State Party is unable to provide the assistance envisaged in its declaration, it is still under obligation to provide assistance in accordance with this paragraph.