

Report of Working Group A

Working Group A held 17 meetings between 4 March and 7 August 1985.

In accordance with the terms of reference for this Working Group, as indicated in document CD/CW/WP.98 of 27 February 1985, the Group dealt with the following broad topics:

1. Permitted activities regarding various categories of chemicals.
2. Laboratories, small-scale production facilities, industrial production facilities, their role in the permitted activities.
3. Definitions to be included in the Convention.
4. Principles and methods of declarations and verification with regard to the activities of the small-scale production facility.
5. Principles and methods of declarations and verification with regard to the activities of the industrial production facilities.

The consideration of the most important aspects of these five issues was scheduled on the basis of an adopted programme of work. The negotiations were based on document CD/539 and other relevant documents. To structure the work the Chairman introduced in addition a number of basic working papers: CD/CW/WP.99; WP.103, WP.104, WP.105, and papers on the régimes for various categories of chemicals, including the definitions of chemical weapons, key components of binary and/or multicomponent weapons and key precursors.

The Chairman also held a number of consultations, including with technical experts, which proved very useful for creating the basis for the understandings reached at the end of the session.

The issue of Scope, though appearing in the title of the terms of reference, was not among the five main topics and therefore was not given particular attention.