

D. Technical Secretariat

1. A Technical Secretariat shall be established to assist the Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council in the performance of their functions. The Technical Secretariat shall carry out the functions entrusted to it under the Convention and its Annexes, as well as such functions assigned to it by the Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council.
2. In particular, the Technical Secretariat shall:
  - (a) address and receive communications on behalf of the Organization to and from States Parties on matters pertaining to the implementation of the Convention;
  - (b) negotiate the subsidiary agreements with States Parties relating to systematic international on-site verification for approval by the Executive Council;
  - (c) execute international verification measure provided for in the Convention; 1/
  - (d) inform the Executive Council of any problems which have arisen with regard to the execution of its functions, and of [doubts, ambiguities or uncertainties about compliance with the Convention] which have come to its notice in the performance of its verification activities and/or which it has been unable to resolve or clarify through its consultations with the State Party concerned;
  - (e) provide technical assistance and technical evaluation to States Parties [in accordance with] [in the implementation of the provisions of] the Convention; 2/
  - (f) prepare and submit to the Executive Council the draft programme and budget of the Organization;
  - (g) prepare and submit to the Executive Council the draft report of the Organization on the implementation of the Convention and such other reports as the Executive Council and/or the Conference of the States Parties may request;
  - (h) provide administrative and technical support 2/ to the Conference of the States Parties, the Executive Council and other subsidiary bodies.

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1/ It has been suggested that the International Inspectorate may request inspections for some insufficiently clear situations in the context of their systematic verification activities.

2/ The phrasing of this paragraph needs to be considered further in the light of the elaboration of the relevant provision of the Convention. It has been suggested that the technical assistance or evaluation may relate, inter alia, to developing technical procedures, improving the effectiveness of verification methods, and revising lists of chemicals.