

principle of levelling out, beginning not later than one year after the Convention enters into force for it, and finishing not later than ten years after entry into force of the Convention. A State Party is not precluded from destroying such facilities at a faster rate;

(b) Provide information annually regarding the implementation of its plans for the destruction of all declared chemical weapons production facilities;

(c) Certify, not later than 30 days after the destruction process has been completed, that all declared chemical weapons production facilities have been destroyed.

10. If a State Party ratifies or accedes to the Convention after the ten-year period for destruction set out in paragraph 9 of this Article, it shall destroy declared chemical weapons production facilities as soon as possible. The rate and sequence of destruction for such a State Party shall be determined by the Executive Council.

11. Each State Party, during the destruction of its declared chemical weapons production facilities, shall assign the highest priority to ensuring the safety of people and to protecting the environment. Each State Party shall destroy its facilities in accordance with national standards for safety and emissions.

12. Declared chemical weapons production facilities may be temporarily converted for destruction of chemical weapons in accordance with agreed procedures. Such a converted facility must be destroyed as soon as it is no longer in use for destruction of chemical weapons but, in any case, not later than ten years after entry into force of the Convention.

13. Each State Party shall meet the costs associated with the destruction of its chemical weapons production facilities. Where bilateral or multilateral arrangements for destruction of declared chemical weapons production facilities and verification of such destruction already exist, the Organization's verification activities shall be complementary to such agreements.