

7. Each State Party has the right to request and, subject to the procedures set out in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of this Article, to receive assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons if it considers that:

(a) Chemical weapons have been used against it;

(b) It is threatened by actions or activities by any State which are prohibited for States Parties by Article II of this Convention.

8. The request, substantiated by relevant information, shall be made to the Director-General of the Secretariat, who shall transmit it to the Executive Council and to all States Parties.

The Director-General shall initiate, not later than 24 hours after receipt of the request, an investigation in order to provide foundation for action, complete it within 72 hours and forward a report to the Executive Council. If additional time is required for completion of the investigation, an interim report shall be submitted within the same time-frame. The additional time required for investigation shall not exceed 72 hours and may be extended by similar periods. Reports at the end of each additional period shall be submitted to the Executive Council. The investigation shall, as appropriate and in conformity with the request and the information accompanying it, establish relevant facts related to the request as well as the type and scope of assistance and protection needed.

9. The Executive Council shall meet not later than 24 hours after receiving the first investigation report to consider the situation and shall take a decision by simple majority in the following 24 hours on whether to instruct the Secretariat to provide assistance. The Secretariat shall immediately transmit to all States Parties and relevant international organizations the final investigation report and the decision taken by the Executive Council. When so decided by the Executive Council, the Director-General of the Secretariat shall provide assistance immediately. For this purpose, the Director-General may cooperate with the requesting State Party, other States Parties and relevant international organizations. The States Parties shall make the fullest possible efforts to provide assistance.

10. If the information available from the ongoing investigation or other reliable sources would give sufficient proof that there are victims of use of chemical weapons and immediate action is indispensable, the Director-General of the Secretariat shall notify all States Parties and shall take emergency measures of assistance, using the resources the Conference of the States Parties has placed at the disposal of the Director-General for such contingencies. The Director-General shall keep the Executive Council informed of actions undertaken pursuant to this paragraph.