

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Chemical Weapons Convention

Ad Hoc Inspections

1. Considerable progress has been made towards developing a layered pattern of on-site inspection to cover the widely varying facilities and activities which could put at risk the objectives of the Convention. The United Kingdom delegation welcomes the ideas which have been put forward in the negotiations by a number of delegations to strengthen these verification provisions, and would like to contribute to the debate by putting forward an alternative option. This paper suggests an inspection system to be added to the existing provisions in CD/881, thus completing the on-site inspection framework in a cost-effective manner.

2. The text of CD/881 contains the following provisions for mandatory on-site inspection:

(a) Routine inspection initiated by the Technical Secretariat, on the basis of annual declarations by States Parties, for:

- Chemical weapons stocks to check declarations and monitor destruction.
- Chemical weapons production facilities to check mothballing and certify destruction.
- Production of proscribed super toxic chemicals for permitted purposes at permitted facilities.
- Non-production by the civil industry of high risk chemicals (Schedules [2] and [...]).

(b) Challenge inspection, by which each State Party has the right to request an on-site inspection in order to clarify doubts about compliance.

3. In addition the text in CD/881 contains a procedure for one State Party to request clarification from another State Party via the Executive Council, but this stops short of reference to on-site inspection or mandatory obligation on the requested State.