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analytical techniques. The data base also includes tentative structures for storage of other than analytical data. These data include "static" data on the verification domain, such as organizations, targets etc., and data on operational procedures, such as inspection reports.

For the purposes of CW verification, the feasible data base techniques needed are: structural data base, text data base, chemical structures data base, picture and image data base, and reference data base. In designing the data architecture we have considered what data are to be stored, the format in which the data are stored, where the data should be physically stored, how these data would be used and by whom, data security, and how long the data should be preserved.

We illustrate how data base techniques could support the various procedures of CW verification. Some of the procedures we describe are preparatory procedures that could be introduced immediately. Others, the actual verification procedures, would be introduced only later, after the future convention enters into force.

For example, the creation of an open international verification data base would ease and speed up the exchange of information on research being done in different countries. The identification procedures for banned chemicals will have to be internationally agreed upon. By way of assistance, the data base could act as an evaluation forum for newly developed procedures. Such a forum would benefit all participants by allowing a review of research being done elsewhere, and instant feedback for one's own research.

If international co-operation between laboratories were to be arranged with a view to creating internationally accepted standard operating procedures for the analyses, the data base could be used for obtaining the preliminary working instructions, and for the storage of the results and comments on the methods. This would allow the status and progress to be continuously monitored, and facilitate statistical evaluations of the results. If the development work were to lead to scientifically sound and reproducible identification methods, the procedures could be used to produce reference data for the future international inspectorate on the compounds listed in the convention. The procedures could then be left to the preparatory commission for approval. This work would considerably diminish the work of the preparatory commission in its duty of developing procedures and instrumentation for verification, and training inspectors to use them. The data base would be an ideal tool to keep track of laboratories, timetables, statistical evaluation of the results, and distribution of the summary of results to each participating laboratory.

The main advantage of the CW verification data base will be achieved after the entry into force of the convention, when the actual verification process begins. The main activities that the data base can support are: storage of documentation, time scheduling, preparations for an inspection, registration of the inspection results, decision-making, reporting, sample tracking and acting as a reference data bank for laboratories.