

ANNEX IV

A State Party shall decide for itself which methods, processes and techniques to use for the elimination of its chemical weapon, if any, in accordance with the principles laid down in this Annex.

I. PRINCIPLES FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

All chemical weapons shall be eliminated through destruction or diversion. Limited quantities of chemicals may be retained as specified in Article VI.

A. Destruction of chemical weapons

Destruction of chemical weapons means a process by which chemicals are converted in an essentially irreversible way to a form unsuitable for production of chemical weapons, and which in an irreversible manner renders munitions and other devices unusable as such.

Elimination through destruction shall apply to all chemical weapons except those which may be diverted.

B. Diversion of chemical weapons

Diversion of chemical weapons means a process by which chemical weapons are converted in an essentially irreversible way into end products that may only be used for purposes other than those related to chemical weapons.

Elimination through diversion may not apply to supertoxic lethal chemicals or key components of multi-component systems (as well as other types of chemicals to be agreed upon).

II. PRINCIPLES FOR THE ORDER OF ELIMINATION

A. The elaboration of Principles for the Order of Elimination could build on the following:

- undiminished security for all States during the entire elimination stage,
- confidence building in the early part of the elimination stage,
- applicability irrespective of the actual composition of the stockpiles, and
- applicability irrespective of the methods chosen for the elimination of the chemical weapons.

B. The elaboration of Principles for the Order of Elimination is in a very early stage of the negotiations. The preliminary approach has so far been based on the following:

- that the entire elimination stage be divided into x number of elimination periods,
- that the chemical weapons to be eliminated be divided into groups,