

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 1/

During the verification activities under the Chemical Weapons Convention the proper balance should be observed between the degree of intrusiveness and the need to protect confidential information. Only when necessary data reporting and verification should rely on confidential information. Its handling shall not be in conflict with the existing international legal norms, namely with regard to the protection of intellectual property. In drawing the rules for handling and protection of confidential information the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat shall use the following classification, establishing the level of confidentiality of information:

(a) Information, which could be released for public use through the official reports of the Organization to the United Nations or other institutions or upon request to States Non-Parties to the CWC, various organizations or individuals. The Executive Council shall determine the general parameters covering the release of information for public use, within which the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat shall consider and decide upon individual requests. Requests going beyond these parameters shall be referred to the Executive Council for decision. However, information from other classifications related to specified States Parties shall not be made public without the consent of the State Party concerned. The Director-General may disseminate any other information in accordance with a request by a State Party to which the information refers. This category shall cover, i.a., general information on the course of the implementation of the Convention.

(b) Information with distribution limited to States Parties to the Convention. The main source of such information will be the Initial and Annual Declarations on the aggregate quantities of chemicals produced and number of facilities operating in individual States Parties. Data of such nature might be included in the reports to various bodies of the Organization. States Parties shall have easy access to such information and shall treat it as confidential (e.g. not to be offered to press). A routine distribution of this information shall be made to the Executive Council members and to the Technical Secretariat. Data, not contained in the regular reports, might be requested by States Parties. The Director-General shall respond positively to such requests, unless they contravene the agreed rules for the classification of confidential information.

(c) Information limited to the Technical Secretariat, to be used primarily for the planning, preparation and carrying out of verification activities. This category shall comprise mainly detailed, facility-related information, obtained from the relevant declarations, facility attachments and conclusions from on-site inspections. The Director-General shall regulate the access to such information by the Technical Secretariat personnel on the "need-to-know" basis. Respect by the International Inspectorate and other Technical Secretariat personnel for confidential nature of information

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1/ This material shall be transferred to the Preparatory Commission/ Director-General of the Technical Secretariat for consideration in the elaboration of relevant regulations.