

chemicals, while less rigorous measures may be implemented when destroying the stockpiles of toxic or other harmful agents. This means that on-site inspection should be applied in the former case, which can be systematic or random, while in the case of the destruction of lethal or other harmful agents national measures might be accepted with periodic on-site international verification.

In the considerations so far of the organization and forms of international and national verification measures, the relationship of the former toward the latter and vice versa has been insufficiently clarified. This is also the case with the obligations and competences of the States Parties to the future convention with respect to the implementation of national verification measures. While it is generally agreed that international verification must be implemented on the basis of an agreed procedure, there is still a lot of ambiguity concerning national verification procedure.

It is not completely clear, for example, whether the national inspection team is accountable only to its own Government or whether it should also have some direct obligations toward the Consultative Committee. In the event that this body is accorded the major responsibility for the comprehensive implementation of the convention, how would the co-operation between the national team and the Consultative Committee be carried out? Systematic on-site inspection, on the other hand, is not and should not always be the only solution, especially having in mind that this type of control is not always considered to be necessary by some States. However, regardless of the type of verification, it is essential that it be based on confidence and an agreement on verification measures.

It is understood and by now generally accepted that measures of international control should be applied particularly in the case of violation of the convention. If control is to be efficient, in such an event on-site inspection should be implemented as soon as possible. It is only then that it can be credible and provide all the necessary information for establishing the facts.

There is an underlying basic question in all the considered cases, namely: which organ has the principal role in the initiation of the verification process and in determining the means of verification? In our view, this should be the Consultative Committee, in co-operation with its group of experts. The Consultative Committee should be obliged to inform the State Party on whose territory the control is to take place of the verification measures. Once an agreement has been reached on all aspects of verification, preparatory operations should commence.