

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

FRANCE

### THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

While the aims, principles and basic provisions of the convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons must be sacrosanct, it must be a living, evolutionary institution as far as its application is concerned.

In particular, it will have to be adapted in the light of progress in science and technology that will inevitably occur, in order to minimize and if possible forestall the risks inherent in the emergence of new chemicals and new technologies which, if not controlled, may jeopardize or circumvent the convention, as well as to provide the best possible instrument for verification.

There is every evidence that the representatives of the scientific community are best qualified to perform this task of monitoring, advising and preparing the ground for decision-making. The scientific community has a universal calling, and, without moving away from its own role, must be in a position to transcend divergences in culture and in interests between States in order to provide an objective assessment of scientific and technological developments as they affect the convention.

For this reason, France proposed two years ago (cf. CD/747 of 23 March 1987) that an advisory scientific authority should be set up among the organs of the convention. Since that time this idea has gained ground and has been progressively taken up by the negotiators.

This authority, which would be known as the "Scientific Advisory Council", might act as a high-level advisory body for the organs of the convention, in particular the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat, in preparing the ground for decisions to be taken to put the provisions of the convention into effect.