

States Parties to be assured of the continued compliance with the Convention by other States Parties shall be routinely provided to them. Such data shall encompass:

- (i) the initial and annual reports and declarations provided by States Parties under Articles III, IV, V and VI;
- (ii) general reports on the results and effectiveness of verification activities; and
- (iii) information to be supplied to all States Parties in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

(c) No information obtained by the Organization in connection with implementation of the Convention shall be published or otherwise released, except, as follows:

- (i) General information on the implementation of the Convention may be compiled and released publicly in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of States Parties or the Executive Council. [Prior to public release, all data and documents shall be evaluated by a specially designated unit of the Technical Secretariat to ensure that they do not contain confidential information.]
- (ii) Any information may be released with the express consent of the State Party to which the information refers.
- (iii) Information classified as confidential shall be released by the Organization only through agreed procedures which ensure that the release of information only occurs in strict conformity with the needs of the Convention.

(d) The level of sensitivity of confidential data or documents shall be established, based on criteria to be applied uniformly ^{1/} in order to ensure their appropriate handling and protection. For this purpose, a classification system shall be introduced, which by taking account of relevant work undertaken in the preparation of the Convention shall provide for clear criteria ensuring the inclusion of information into appropriate categories of confidentiality and the justified durability of the confidential nature of information. While providing for the necessary flexibility in its implementation the classification system shall protect the rights of States Parties providing confidential information.

(e) Confidential information shall be stored securely at the premises of the Organization. Some data or documents may also be stored with the national authority of a State Party. Sensitive information, inter alia, photographs,

^{1/} The view was expressed that such criteria should be developed by the Technical Secretariat.