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Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL GROUP ON ANALYTICAL DATA BASE AND LABORATORIES

The Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons decided on 27 March 1991 to establish the Technical Group on Analytical Data Base and Laboratories, as a successor to the Technical Group on Instrumentation, and appointed Dr. Marjatta Rautio of Finland as the chairman of this expert group. The group held 9 meetings from 17 to 21 June 1991.

The group discussed extensively issues related to

- analytical data base, its sources and the types and quality of data to be included;
- accreditation of designated laboratories, tasks of these laboratories and options for the laboratory network.

Background papers on different aspects of data bases and verification laboratories were submitted by the delegations of Canada and the United Kingdom (jointly), Finland and the Netherlands (jointly) and the United States. Australia introduced a draft paper on on-site chemical analysis of families of scheduled chemicals. In addition material on quality assurance for analytical chemical laboratories was distributed. A list of all background material is included as an annex to this report.

The results of the discussions are presented in this report. Repetition of views presented in the reports of the Technical Group on Instrumentation (CD/CW/WP.272 and CD/CW/WP.306) has been avoided. A detailed analysis of the use of different analytical techniques for the verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which formed the background for the discussions in the group, can be found in those reports.

This report has been divided into three parts. The first part deals with the analytical data base, the second part with the accreditation of laboratories, and the third part contains a summary of the findings and recommendations of the group. All parts were approved in the last meeting of the group on 21 June 1991.