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Verification of the Chemical Industry under Article VI and its Annexes

From the very outset of the negotiations to conclude a Chemical Weapons Convention, the importance of establishing a verification system of chemical industry received special attention. The results of the negotiations on this subject are now reflected in Article VI and its Annexes of the Rolling Text.

Table (1) summarizes the verification régime accordingly:

The national trial inspections conducted by a number of countries according to the present system have shed light on the advantages as well as possible lacunas of this régime. The results of these inspections to a large extent indicate that Article VI and its Annexes can meet the objectives set by the Convention with some modifications and improvements.

The negotiations and discussions in the past two years also contributed to the identification of certain operational problems, among which are "the financial burden of the régime" and "inadequate coverage of all capable facilities". Various suggestions have been tabled to address these problems.

This paper, while basing its approach on the principles embodied in the Rolling Text, has tried to offer additional measures to bridge the shortcomings and lacunas.

1. The basic elements of the proposal

1.1 The objective of the Convention is prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, acquiring and use of chemical weapons;