

both in the context of physical nodes such as facilities, National Authority and the Technical Secretariat, as well as information processing modules such as identification of chemical compounds, accounting etc. Other functions might involve analysis procedures tailored to satisfy only the requirements of the convention, with particular emphasis on the maximization of the information need for verification, while minimizing any other information which might compromise national interests or business confidentiality.

37. Since the verification functions require knowledge from many disciplines, the issue of information processing needs to be addressed in a series of meetings and by groups of experts from many disciplines, with the purpose of developing recommendations to the CD on the technical feasibility of implementing specific components such as types of instruments, computing requirements, operation of the information processing system, data evaluation procedures etc. It would be useful to provide cost estimates for the implementation of the recommendations. In addition to having meetings involving specialists from only one area such as chemistry, other meetings should involve specialists from many areas such as chemistry, chemical engineering, computing and communications, systems theory and process control to ensure a comprehensive treatment of the issues. These expanded meetings would allow for interaction among the various experts whose knowledge would be essential for the development of the information processing system. Therefore, there is a need to establish an agenda for examining various components of the information processing system and to identify the areas of the required expertise.

PART II. ACCREDITATION OF DESIGNATED LABORATORIES

3. Tasks of the laboratories

38. In the context with the accreditation of designated laboratories, the Group discussed the different tasks the laboratories are required to perform under the Chemical Weapons Convention, and how these tasks could be distributed between the Technical Secretariat, its laboratory and accredited laboratories. The following tasks were identified:

- Verification analysis
- Analytical methods development
- Other methods development
- Recording of reference data
- Organizing, certifying and updating of data bases
- Synthesis and certification of reference compounds
- Preparation and distribution of analytical standards
- Toxicological data collection and determination
- Certification of analytical methods
- Quality control/quality assurance
- Handling of authentic samples
- Training of inspectors
- Accreditation of laboratories