

- Informing the relevant section of the Technical Secretariat and/or the inspection team involved.

1.7 Quality assurance

The credibility of the verification system is to a large extent dependent on the confidence that the analyses of the samples can give definite proof of the contents of the samples and thus serve as a basis for conclusions with respect to compliance or non-compliance with the Convention. Furthermore, the confidence in the validity of the results should be equal for all the Accredited Laboratories. This emphasizes the necessity to monitor the performance and capabilities of the Accredited Laboratories by the Organization on a regular basis. Within the Organization this may be best achieved by establishing a specific group of experts on quality assurance.

The accreditation process will involve an inspection of the laboratories during which a team of experts examines the facilities, equipment as well as written technical and operating procedures.

The performance of new laboratories seeking accreditation should be compared with that of the existing Accredited Laboratories by several tests. As these tests are best combined with the quality assurance monitoring, the same unit within the Organization should be assigned to both tasks.

The principal method for quality assurance monitoring would entail tests which would be indistinguishable from authentic analytical tasks assigned to the Accredited Laboratories. The utilization of good laboratory practices (GLP) should also be monitored by frequent visits to the laboratories. The attainment of the status of Accredited Laboratory and its prolongation should be contingent upon the performance shown in the quality assurance tests. The Director General should annually report on the quality control activities of the Organization.

It is envisaged to discuss the different aspects of quality assurance in a separate working paper.

1.8 Technical support for the Organization

The entry into force of the Convention cannot mean the freezing of the technical knowledge available and applied within the Organization and its Technical Secretariat. Various Accredited Laboratories may be involved in developing new equipment. Some equipment may also be commercially developed or under contracts financed by the Organization or by States Parties ("national support programmes").