

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND ITALY

Working Paper

The order of destruction of chemical weapons

1. Over the past few years the issue of order of destruction of chemical weapons has been paid a lot of attention in the negotiations on a global ban on chemical weapons. A number of working papers were devoted to this subject. 1/ The issue has also been subject to intensive consultations by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, the result of which is reflected in the Chairman's paper included in Appendix II, pages 92 and 93 of CD/795 of 2 February 1988.

2. As is already stated in the Annex to Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the rolling text (CD/795, page 41) the elaboration of the order of destruction shall be built on the following considerations:

- undiminished security for all States during the entire destruction stage;
- confidence-building in the early part of the destruction stage;
- gradual acquisition of experience in the course of destroying chemical weapons stocks;
- applicability, irrespective of the actual composition of the stockpiles and the method chosen for the destruction of the chemical weapons.

Among these points, the principle of maintaining undiminished security for all States during the entire destruction stage is of paramount importance. It is the basic yardstick for assessing proposed solutions to the question of the order of destruction of chemical weapons.

Recently, attention has even more focused on the maintenance of undiminished security during the envisaged 10-year destruction phase due to the different sizes of the chemical weapon stocks existing at the start of the 10-year destruction phase.

3. In an effort to meet the concerns expressed with regard to maintaining security during the 10-year destruction phase, also in view of existing disparities in chemical weapon arsenals, the following approach is suggested:

I. In accordance with Article I, paragraph 1, and Article V, paragraphs 2 and 3 the production of chemical weapons shall cease immediately upon entry into force of the Convention.

II. In accordance with Article IV, paragraph 8 and Article V, paragraph 10, as well as the relevant parts of the Annexes to these Articles, all chemical weapons storage sites as well as all chemical weapons production facilities shall be subjected to systematic international on-site verification.

III. For the purpose of destruction, the categorization developed in the Chairman's paper in Appendix II of CD/795 shall apply. Within each of the three categories a States Party shall determine on its own its detailed plans for each annual period of the destruction process.

IV. In a first phase the States Parties possessing the largest stocks of chemical weapons shall proceed with the destruction of their CW stocks until an agreed level is reached.

For the practical implementation of this basic undertaking the following provisions shall apply:

- for the purpose of the Convention States Parties with large stocks shall be considered to be those States Parties which possess more than [...] tons of chemical weapons agents regardless of whether these agents are in bulk or filled in munitions or other devices;
- the initial reduction period devoted to the reduction of the chemical weapon stocks of the States Parties with large stocks shall comprise [five] years from the entry into force of the Convention;
- the reduction in the existing large stocks shall start not later than one year after the entry into force of the Convention;
- at the end of this [five] year period equal levels with regard to the remaining [...] tons of chemical weapon agents shall be achieved by all States Parties with large stocks;
- without prejudice to the actual start in the reductions the five annual reduction amounts shall be calculated according to the following formula:

$$x = \frac{A1 - A2}{5} \underline{2/}$$

- States Parties with large stocks shall submit during this first phase annual reports on the reduction of their respective stockpiles to the Technical Secretariat.

V. After the "levelling out" of the large stocks at [...] tons at the end of the fifth year after the entry into force of the Convention a review on the results achieved so far and the experiences gained during the first years with the destruction of chemical weapons and its verification will be carried out during a Special Session of the General Conference of the Organization. The Executive Council will make the necessary preparations for this meeting with the help of the Technical Secretariat.

VI. After the levelling-out phase of the largest stockpiles has been concluded the destruction process will enter into its second phase. During this phase which lasts from the end of the fifth year until the end of the tenth year all States Parties possessing chemical weapons, and regardless of the size of the respective chemical weapons stocks, are required to destroy their chemical weapons. The destruction would be carried out in a linear fashion, i.e. the existing stockpile for each CW-possessor State would be subdivided into five equal reduction amounts to be destroyed during the remaining five years of the destruction period. In the process use could be made of the three categories mentioned above under paragraph 3, III. In this way all existing stockpiles shall be eliminated at the end of the tenth year of the destruction process.

#### Notes

1/ CD/697 of 20 May 1986;  
CD/CW/WP.162 of 7 April 1987;  
CD/CW/WP.169 of 15 June 1987;  
CD/CW/WP.182 of 15 January 1988.

2/ X = annual reduction amount;  
A1 = declared total stock of chemical weapons (Article. IV, para.2);  
A2 = ... tons; (residual stock after initial five years reduction period for large stocks);  
5 = five years in which residual equal levels of stocks are to be reached.