

ANNEX 1

UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION PRINCIPLES OF VERIFICATION (1988)

Adequate and effective verification is an essential element of all arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

Verification is not an aim in itself, but an essential element in the process of achieving arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

Verification should promote the implementation of arms limitation and disarmament measures, build confidence among States and ensure that agreements are being observed by all parties.

Adequate and effective verification requires employment of different techniques, such as national technical means, international technical means and international procedures, including on-site inspections.

Verification in the arms limitation and disarmament process will benefit from greater openness.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements should include explicit provisions whereby each party undertakes not to interfere with the agreed methods, procedures and techniques of verification, when these are operating in a manner consistent with the provisions of the agreement and generally recognized principles of international law.

Arms limitation and disarmament agreements should include explicit provisions whereby each party undertakes not to use deliberate concealment measures which impede verification of compliance with the agreement.

To assess the continuing adequacy and effectiveness of the verification system, an arms limitation and disarmament agreement should provide for procedures and mechanisms for review and evaluation. Where possible, time-frames for such reviews should be agreed in order to facilitate this assessment.

Verification arrangements should be addressed at the outset and at every stage of negotiations on specific arms limitation and disarmament agreements.

All States have equal rights to participate in the process of international verification of agreements to which they are parties.

Adequate and effective verification arrangements must be capable of providing, in a timely fashion, clear and convincing evidence of compliance or non-compliance. Continued confirmation of compliance is an essential ingredient to building and maintaining confidence among the parties.

Determinations about the adequacy, effectiveness and acceptability of specific methods and arrangements intended to verify compliance with the provisions of an arms limitation and disarmament agreement can only be made within the context of that agreement.

Verification of compliance with the obligations imposed by an arms limitation and disarmament agreement is an activity conducted by the parties to an arms limitation and disarmament agreement or by an organization at the request and with the explicit consent of the parties, and is an expression of the sovereign right of States to enter into such arrangements.

Requests for inspections or information in accordance with the provisions of an arms limitation and disarmament agreement should be considered as a normal component of the verification process. Such requests should be used only for the purposes of the determination of compliance, care being taken to avoid abuses.

Verification arrangements should be implemented without discrimination, and, in accomplishing their purpose, avoid unduly interfering with the internal affairs of State parties or other States, or jeopardizing their economic, technological and social development.

To be adequate and effective, a verification regime for an agreement must cover all relevant weapons, facilities, locations, installations and activities.

Source: UN, *Verification in All its Aspects: Study on the Role of the United Nations in the Field of Verification*, UN document A/45/372, 28 August 1990, Section II.