

## Observation and Inspection

26. On the initiative of the United Kingdom the Commission considered the obligation set out in Article XXIV of the Convention to elaborate a system of observation and inspection. The view was accepted that it would be helpful in further consideration of this matter to draw a distinction between, on the one hand a system of observation which would relate to the promotion of the objectives of the Convention and, on the other hand, a system of inspection which would relate to ensuring the observance of the provisions of the Convention.

27. In relation to the elaboration of a system of inspection, the Commission noted that Article XXIV paragraph 2(a) requires that account should be taken of existing international practice. The Commission decided to request the Executive Secretary to collect information on existing international practice and to make it available to members of the Commission prior to the next meeting.

28. In relation to the elaboration of a system of observation, the Commission decided to ask the Scientific Committee in what manner observers might be helpful to the Scientific Committee in assisting it to promote the objectives of the Convention. The Commission drew to the attention of the Scientific Committee that existing systems of observation for scientific purposes are based on principles of cooperation and reciprocity and suggested that these principles should be taken into account by the Scientific Committee in providing advice to the Commission on this matter.

29. The Commission agreed to take up this item at its next session to consider the advice that may be provided by the Scientific Committee and any other contributions that may be presented by Delegations.