

Unit 6(3)

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC): -

It is a legally binding international convention dealing with prohibition of development, production, piling and use of chemical weapons. It started in January 1993 and became effective in 1997. It has 165 signatories, though Israel is its part but has not ratified it. The other countries which are not part of it are Egypt, North Korea and Sudan. A chemical weapon is any toxic chemical which can cause death, injury or nerve damage. These can cause lung, skin and cerebral damage. In 1925 Geneva Protocol was sought out to ban use of chemical and biological weapons. The CWC requires member nations to declare all chemical weapons, their sites like those being used for research and development and testing sites. OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) is located in The Hague, Netherlands and is responsible for verifying, reporting and on-site inspection of such sites. Examples of chemical weapons are mustard gas, white phosphorus etc.

CITES: —

This is The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. It was signed in 1973 in Washington and is also called Washington Convention. It was initially discussed at a meeting of International Union for Conservation of Nature in 1963. It started into action in 1975. Its main aim is to ensure international traders wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of species in the wild. It has 182 states as signatories. A license needs to be taken before any international trade of wild species both import and export. More than 5000 animal species and about 30000

plant species are protected by CITES for over exploitation due to international trade.

UNEP: -United Nations Environment Programme

This program of UN coordinates the activities related to environment being undertaken by various nations and assists developing countries in implementing policies and practices concerned with the environment.

Maurice Strong was its first Director. This programme is the result of Stockholm Conference held in June 1972 -United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Its headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya. It has helped in making guidelines on issues such as air pollution within countries, pollution of waterways etc. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)1988 was established by UN and World Meteorological Organization under UNEP. The main activities of UNEP are related to Climate Change, natural disasters, ecosystem management and environmental governance. UNEP has been able to establish a number of successful issues such as the Montreal Protocol. The Minamata Convention a treaty for limiting toxic mercury after the outbreak of Minamata disease in Japan is also a part of this programme. UNESCO and UNEP have led an environmental education programme internationally for more than 20 years. It has recognised various international years such as 2011 as international year of Forests etc. It publishes reports, newsletters etc. on a regular basis for enriching the world with various environmental issues.

Dr.Vibha Narang