



DECISION

UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSALITY ACTION PLAN

The Conference of the States Parties,

Recognising the contribution that every new ratification of and accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) makes to the fostering of international peace and security and of global stability;

Reaffirming the priority it attaches to the attainment of the universality of the Convention and that the universality of the Convention is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose;

Recalling that, at its Eighth Session, the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) noted the action plan for the universality of the Convention, which the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) adopted at its Twenty-Third Meeting (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003) at the recommendation of the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-1/5, dated 9 May 2003);

Reaffirming also the importance of all the provisions of the action plan and the measures identified therein for promoting the universality of the Convention, as well as the decisions adopted by the Conference at its Third (C-III/DEC.9, dated 20 November 1998), Fourth (C-IV/DEC.22, dated 2 July 1999), Tenth (C-10/DEC.11, dated 10 November 2005), Eleventh (C-11/DEC.8, dated 7 December 2006), and Twelfth (C-12/DEC.11, dated 9 November 2007) Sessions;

Recalling that, at its Twelfth Session, the Conference decided to continue with the action plan and further decided that, at its Fourteenth Session, it would “review the results and implementation of that plan and take any decisions it deems necessary, in particular addressing the status of those States not Party whose non-adherence is a cause for serious concern” (C-12/DEC.11);

Recalling also that the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Second Review Conference”) underlined the fact that the goal of universality shall be pursued by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) as well as the States Parties as a matter of high priority, and acknowledged the efforts made by the States Parties, the policy-making



organs, the Secretariat, and the Director-General to this end (paragraphs 9.12 and 9.13 of RC-2/4, dated 18 April 2008);

Recalling further that the Second Review Conference welcomed the decision by the Conference at its Twelfth Session to continue with the action plan for the universality of the Convention (C-12/DEC.11), and also called upon the Secretariat, the Director-General, the policy-making organs and all States Parties in a position to do so to intensify further their efforts with States not Party with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date (paragraph 9.18 of RC-2/4);

Noting the annual report on the implementation of the action plan for the universality of the Convention during the period from 19 November 2008 to 11 September 2009, as submitted by the Director-General (EC-58/DG.9 C-14/DG.8, dated 29 September 2009);

Noting also with satisfaction that, as a result of the progress achieved since the adoption of the action plan, 33 States have become Party to the Convention, and **noting further** that this reflects a total of 188 States Parties, with seven States remaining to join the Convention, as indicated by the Director-General in EC-58/DG.9 C-14/DG.8;

Welcoming the fact that since the Conference met at its Thirteenth Session, four new States have become Party to the Convention, namely the Bahamas (21 May 2009), the Dominican Republic (26 April 2009), Iraq (12 February 2009), and Lebanon (20 December 2008);

Recognising the efforts of States Parties and the Secretariat to promote the universality of the Convention; and

Recalling that States that remain outside the Convention would not be able to take advantage of the benefits that the Convention offers to States Parties;

Hereby:

1. **Calls upon** all the remaining States not Party to ratify or accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention without further delay, thereby confirming their commitment to global peace and security, disarmament, and non-proliferation;
2. **Urges** all States Parties and the Secretariat to continue to intensify their universality-related efforts with a view to increasing the number of States Parties;
3. **Requests** the Director-General to continue his contacts with the States not Party, encouraging them to join the Convention without further delay, and to report on these contacts and the progress made thereon;
4. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue to utilise all available opportunities and resources, including diplomatic channels, international forums, and relevant OPCW meetings and events to advance the objectives of the action plan in accordance with the mandate provided to it in the decisions on universality adopted by the Council and the Conference;
5. **Decides** to continue with the action plan, and **further decides** that, at its Sixteenth Session, it shall review the results and implementation of that plan and take any

decision it deems necessary, in particular addressing the status of those States not Party whose non-adherence is a cause for serious concern; and

6. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue to provide and keep current information on activities related to promoting the universality of the Convention and the progress being made thereon, including in an annual report to the Conference at its Fifteenth Session.

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