



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Tenth Session
7 – 11 November 2005

C-10/DEC.13
10 November 2005
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DECISION

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPCW OFFICE IN AFRICA

The Conference of the States Parties,

Having considered a proposal by the African Group of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) for the establishment of an “OPCW Office in Africa”;

Noting the recommendation made on this matter by the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Twenty-Fifth Meeting (EC-M-25/DEC.6, dated 9 November 2005); and

Affirming the importance of promoting the universality of the Convention as well as its effective national implementation;

Hereby decides as follows:

1. to commend the proposal made by the African Group of States Parties for the establishment of an “OPCW Office in Africa” which seeks to promote the goals of universality and national implementation of the Convention in the African continent;
2. to recommend to the Council to establish an appropriate *ad hoc*, open-ended working group that includes the participation of the principal sponsors of the proposal as well as the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), to examine the administrative, financial, and legal aspects of the proposal. This process shall draw upon and benefit from the OPCW’s experience, and evaluate the relevance of existing capacities and alternative mechanisms used by the Secretariat that may be focussed to promote the goals of universality and assist African States Parties in national implementation of the Convention’s obligations;
3. depending on the outcome of such an evaluation, to recommend a project for Africa that might, in the light of considerations outlined in paragraph 2, *inter alia* endorse the proposal for the establishment of an “OPCW Office in Africa” and/or other mechanisms, on the condition that this measure shall be an exceptional measure; shall not constitute a precedent for any other region; and shall be phased out within a time frame to be decided as an integral part of the enabling decision; and



4. to request the Council to promote the process identified in paragraphs 2 and 3 with a view to the Council forwarding a recommendation to the Conference at its Eleventh Session in the context of the proposal for the establishment of an “OPCW Office in Africa”.

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