



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Thirteenth Session
2 – 5 December 2008

C-13/DEC.7
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DECISION

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OBLIGATIONS

The Conference of the States Parties,

Recalling the decision adopted at its Twelfth Session (C-12/DEC.9, dated 9 November 2007), concerning follow-up to the plan of action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations, adopted by the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Eighth Session (C-8/DEC.16, dated 24 October 2003) and all related decisions;

Taking note of the report of the Director-General on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) as at 15 September 2008 (C-13/DG.6, dated 11 November 2008), which the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) has provided in accordance with paragraph 8 of C-12/DEC.9;

Recalling the report of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (RC-2/4, dated 18 April 2008);

Welcoming the considerable progress made in the implementation of Article VII obligations since the adoption of C-8/DEC.16, and **commending** the efforts of States Parties in this regard;

Recognising that further progress is required, as there remains a sizeable number of States Parties that have yet to complete implementation of their Article VII obligations, and at the same time **recognising** that a number of these States Parties require assistance and technical support, including some that are encountering difficulties in the process of implementing Article VII;

Acknowledging the positive impact that tailored and systematic support from States Parties and the Secretariat has in the continued success of the implementation of Article VII obligations, as well as **commending** the provision of assistance, including expertise and voluntary contributions, to States Parties upon request, and their efforts in making use of possible synergies between each others’ assistance activities; and

Strongly reaffirming the obligation of each State Party to adopt the necessary measures to implement its obligations under the Convention in accordance with its constitutional



processes and **also reaffirming** that the full national implementation of the obligations under the Convention is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention;

Hereby:

1. **Urges** States Parties that have yet to designate or establish a National Authority, and/or that have yet to enact legislation and/or to adopt administrative measures to implement the Convention:
 - (a) to notify the Organisation of the designation or establishment of their National Authority; and/or
 - (b) to inform the Organisation, on an ongoing basis, as appropriate, with regard to the steps they are taking in accordance with their constitutional processes to enact legislation, including penal legislation, and to adopt administrative measures to implement the Convention;
2. **Encourages** States Parties that have yet to fulfil their Article VII obligations and the actions required under C-10/DEC.16 (dated 11 November 2005) to avail themselves of assistance that is offered, if they consider it appropriate, to consult with the Secretariat, and to provide it with details, as appropriate, of their assistance requirements;
3. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue to provide, upon request, technical assistance in a tailor-made and systematic manner to effectively address the needs of States Parties with a view to addressing their practical national implementation issues and concerns;
4. **Encourages** States Parties to continue offering assistance in implementing Article VII, including, inter alia, through the provision of expertise to States Parties, through fostering cooperation within regional groups, as well as through making voluntary contributions to the Organisation and any other offers, and also to explore and benefit from possible synergies between each others' assistance activities, those of the Secretariat and those of relevant international, regional and subregional organisations, and to keep the Organisation informed about their activities;
5. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue to keep current a progress report on the external server of the Organisation and to provide its annual report on the status of implementation of Article VII obligations to the Council at its Fifty-Eighth Session; and
6. **Requests** the Council to submit the report referred to in paragraph 5 above to the Conference at its Fourteenth Session, along with its recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration.