



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Third Special Session
7 April 2008

C-SS-3/DEC.1
7 April 2008
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DECISION

AMENDMENT OF RULE 8 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

The Conference of the States Parties,

Recalling paragraph 22 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which stipulates, inter alia, that the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) shall, not later than one year after the expiry of the fifth and the tenth years after the entry into force of the Convention and at such other times within that time period as may be decided upon, convene in special sessions to undertake reviews of the operation of the Convention;

Noting that paragraph 15 of Article VIII of the Convention and Rules 34 and 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties stipulate that, at the beginning of each regular session, the Conference shall elect its Chairman and such other officers as may be required and that they shall hold office until a new Chairman and other officers are elected at the next regular session;

Noting also that Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure requires that the officers of the Conference shall be elected “having due regard to equitable geographical representation”;

Considering that, since the Conference is required to convene in special sessions to undertake reviews of the operation of the Convention at *five-year* intervals, and also that Member States of the Organisation have been organised in *five* regional groups, the application of a fixed rotation system in the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference inevitably leads to a breach of the principle of geographical distribution, in that the same regional group will always retain the chairmanship of the special sessions convened to undertake reviews of the operation of the Convention;

Considering also that, if States Parties decide to pay due regard to equitable geographical representation in the chairmanship of Review Conferences, the Rules of Procedure need to be amended; and



Noting the decision of the Executive Council at its Fifty-Second Session (EC-52/DEC.5, dated 5 March 2008), recommending that the Conference at its Third Special Session amend Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure (C-I/3, dated 12 May 1997);

Hereby:

Amends Rule 8 of its Rules of Procedure by adding the following paragraph to Rule 8:

“Each Special Review Session shall elect a Chairman and ten Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as it may decide, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation. They shall hold office solely for the purpose of the Special Review Session. Their rights, duties, and functions are identical to those ascribed by the present rules to the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference of the States Parties, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 35 below.”

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