



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Sixteenth Session

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DECISION

COMPONENTS OF AN AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI

The Conference of the States Parties,

Emphasising the importance of the provisions of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) on the economic and technological development of States Parties and recalling that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention;

Recalling that, in accordance with Article XI of the Convention, the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties, and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention including the international exchange of scientific and technical information and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

Recalling that the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) at its Fourteenth Session requested the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to organise in 2010 a workshop for the exchange of ideas among States Parties, and relevant stakeholders from States Parties, including *inter alia*, chemical industry associations, non-governmental organisations, regional and international institutions, which could assist, as appropriate, the policy-making organs of the OPCW to explore, identify and develop concrete measures on the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-14/DEC.11, dated 4 December 2009); and

Recalling also that the Conference at its Fifteenth Session welcomed the holding of a workshop on Article XI of the Convention on 24 and 25 November 2010, and requested the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) to consider the outcome of the aforementioned workshop through the ongoing facilitation process on the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention, in order to develop concrete measures and recommendations within an agreed framework to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention (C-15/5, dated 3 December 2010);



Hereby:

1. **Reaffirms** its determination to promote the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention as it relates, inter alia, to the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technical information on the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, subject to the provisions of the Convention and without prejudice to the principles and applicable rules of international law;
2. **Decides** that the following concrete measures, which constitute, among others, components of an appropriate agreed framework, should be actively implemented by States Parties and the Secretariat, and included in the prioritisation of the activities of the Secretariat as guided by the Convention:
 - (a) National capacity-building for the research, development, storage, production, and safe use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention:
 - (i) to conduct, based on input from National Authorities and relevant stakeholders, a needs assessment on tools and guidance that would be helpful for promoting chemical safety and security; to assist, in cooperation with other relevant international organisations, National Authorities to develop chemical safety and security education and training programmes as well as outreach activities in the field of integrated chemical management; and, as appropriate, to provide financial support for electronic subscriptions to scientific journals relevant to the implementation of the Convention, as well as access to technical data, tools, guidance, and other references for departments of chemistry and other relevant institutions in developing countries;
 - (ii) to cooperate with and advise National Authorities with a view to finding non-toxic chemical substitutes to reduce the risks associated with toxic chemicals as well as to promoting activities from a health, safety, anti-terrorism, and general security point of view;
 - (iii) to organise workshops and training courses involving:
 - a. border control and customs personnel, to promote the exchange of best practices for managing risks associated with the transfer of chemicals; and
 - b. relevant governmental institutions, National Authorities, chemical industry and academic representatives, to promote the exchange of best practices, including on the improvement of chemical plant safety and safe transportation of toxic chemicals;
 - (iv) to continue to facilitate States Parties in providing analytical equipment such as gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC/MS) and infrared (IR) equipment, including consumables and training, to appropriate institutions in developing countries. This might also

extend to other laboratory equipment such as fume hoods, glassware, safety equipment, and personal computers. Training programmes could also be used to lay the basis for further development of the designated laboratory system by improving the analytical capabilities of laboratories in those parts of the world that do not currently possess a designated laboratory;

- (v) to encourage voluntary funding and/or facilitate donations in providing assistance and facilitation regarding the provision of direct support on site to assist National Authorities with specific implementation tasks, whether bilaterally, regionally, or through or by the OPCW, and whether by experts from other States Parties or from the Secretariat;
- (b) Promoting networking and exchange among scientific communities, academic institutions, chemical-industry associations, non-governmental organisations, and regional and international institutions:
 - (i) to establish appropriate fora for promoting networking and exchange among stakeholders, and across national and regional organisations, on a need basis, and to facilitate links with academia on a national or regional basis. To this end, to provide funds to sponsor experts in the field of chemistry from developing countries to attend international scientific conferences with a view to promoting understanding of the Convention and promoting its implementation; and
 - (ii) to encourage the OPCW to continue to develop relations and partnerships as appropriate with relevant regional and international organisations, including international organisations related to chemical safety, chemical industry associations, the private sector, and civil society, in order to promote universality and awareness of the objectives and purposes of the Convention and, to this end, to improve the interactive environment in the OPCW for non-governmental organisations, the scientific community, and industry for their interaction, collaboration with and contribution to the work of the OPCW;
- (c) Enhancing the effectiveness of current international-cooperation programmes of the OPCW:
 - (i) to request the Secretariat, in consultation with the States Parties, to improve the international cooperation programmes of the OPCW through evaluation of their effectiveness, with a view to ensuring that they are responsive to the needs of beneficiary States Parties, in order to optimise resource use and effectiveness, as well as to achieve a clear understanding of the competencies available, the needs of the States Parties, and the requirements of the Convention; to improve the evaluation process for training of National Authorities and to act on it; and, to this end, to request the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with States Parties, a formula for feedback and evaluation that assesses the real benefits;

- (ii) to provide assistance to establishing an alumni association of the Associate Programme and to organise virtual annual meetings of the alumni association, in order to make full use of the lessons learned and experience gained; and
 - (iii) to establish a database of expertise from academia, industries, non-governmental organisations, civil society, and government, in order to facilitate regional and international links between those relevant stakeholders; and, in particular, to establish a clearing house function in the Secretariat, facilitating the exchange of needs and offers for equipment exchange and for matching offers with requests;
- (d) Measures by States Parties and the OPCW to facilitate States Parties' participation in the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technical information relating to the development and application of chemistry, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention:
- (i) to enhance communication among all relevant stakeholders of States Parties, through regional workshops or seminars; to enhance communication among all relevant stakeholders and raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention, including key outcomes and documents from international-cooperation programmes; as well as to adopt concrete measures to facilitate the participation of States Parties in the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technical information relating to the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;
 - (ii) to call upon the States Parties and the OPCW to place an increased emphasis on greater fulfilment of Article XI objectives;
 - (iii) to organise, on a regular basis, workshops on Article XI for the exchange of ideas among States Parties and relevant stakeholders, with a view to assisting, as appropriate, the policy-making organs of the OPCW to further promote the full implementation of Article XI; and
 - (iv) to request the Council to mandate the ongoing facilitation process on Article XI to continue to deliberate and explore, as appropriate, additional measures within an agreed framework to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation all provisions of Article XI;

3. Financial aspects

- (a) **Decides** that the implementation of the above-mentioned concrete measures be funded from within the resources of the annual programme and budget of the OPCW;
- (b) **Encourages** States Parties to provide additional funding on a voluntary basis for the implementation of the aforementioned concrete measures; and

4. Oversight by the Conference and the Council

- (a) **Requests** the Secretariat to report to each annual session of the Conference on the progress made in implementing this decision, and on the status of implementation of Article XI;
- (b) **Requests** the Council, as necessary, to provide guidance to and to coordinate with the Secretariat in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of this decision, as well as submitting, as appropriate, recommendations to further promote the full implementation of Article XI; and
- (c) **Decides** to review the status of the implementation of this decision at its Eighteenth Session, and to consider and take appropriate measures, if necessary, in order to promote the full implementation of Article XI.

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