



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Sixteenth Session
28 November – 2 December 2011

C-16/DEC.16
2 December 2011
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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 (C-8/7, dated 24 October 2003), 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), Twelfth (C-12/DEC.11, dated 9 November 2007), and Fourteenth (C-14/DEC.7, dated 2 December 2009) Sessions;

Recalling that, at its Fourteenth Session (C-14/DEC.7), the Conference decided to continue with the action plan and further decided that, at its Sixteenth Session, it shall 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;

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 by 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 16 September 2010 to 15 September 2011, as submitted by the Director-General (EC-66/DG.16 C-16/DG-15, dated 30 September 2011);

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 eight States remaining to join the Convention, as indicated by the Director-General in EC-66/DG.16 C-16/DG-15;

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 any 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 Convention as a matter of urgency and without preconditions, thereby confirming their commitment to global peace and security, and to 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 to the Convention;
3. **Requests** the Director-General to continue his contacts with 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 Eighteenth Session, it shall review the progress 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 Seventeenth Session.

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