



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Fifth Session
15 - 19 May 2000

C-V/DEC.21
19 May 2000
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DECISION

RECOMMENDATION ON ENSURING THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE CONVENTION

The Conference

Recalling its previous recommendations (C-II/DEC.11, dated 5 December 1997, C-III/DEC.9, dated 20 November 1998, and C-IV/DEC.22, dated 2 July 1999), adopted by consensus, which stressed the crucial importance of universality to all States Parties, especially to states with serious security concerns;

Recalling also resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly which stressed the importance of achieving the universality of the Convention;

Welcoming that, since the adoption of the recommendation at the Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, 10 additional states have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC);

Recognising that the effective universal achievement of the goals of the Convention would require the inclusion, among States Parties, of those states whose non-accession to the Convention causes serious concern;

Recognising that, among the common objectives of the Convention, the security assurances stipulated in the CWC and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention could facilitate and encourage further adherence to the CWC, thus realising the universality of the CWC;

Determined to achieve the full and effective implementation of the CWC;

Reaffirming also the vital and essential importance of universal adherence to the Convention for the realisation of its ultimate goal of a world free of chemical weapons;

Hereby:

1. **Urges** all states which have neither ratified nor acceded to the Convention to do so without delay;
2. **Recommends** that States Parties and the Director-General continue to make every effort to encourage all states, in particular those states believed to possess chemical weapons, which have neither ratified nor acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;
3. **Encourages** States Parties to promote the achievement of the common objectives of the Convention in order to enhance a cooperative atmosphere which could encourage other countries to join the CWC;
4. **Requests** the Director-General to submit to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention at its Sixth Session a report on the implementation of the present recommendation;
5. **Decides** to include in the Provisional Agenda of its Sixth Session the item entitled "Ensuring universality of the Convention".