

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN****UNIVERSALITY**

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches high priority and importance to the universality of the Convention and firmly believes in full and real adherence of the universality to the Convention, so that no State remains outside of the Convention and no-chemical activity remains outside of the verification regime of the Organisation, which would lead to fostering of international peace, security and global stability and would prepare the ground to achieve a world free of the threat of any category of weapons of mass destruction.
2. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes efforts and initiatives of the Technical Secretariat to keep contact with non-parties to encourage them to accede to the Convention and expresses its satisfaction at the steady increase in the number of the States that have joined the Convention, which has now reached 188 States Parties. The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to support appropriate activities to promote the universality of the Convention, including those related to the action plan for universality of the Convention and subsequent decisions adopted by the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties - in particular the decision of the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.16, dated 2 December 2011).
3. Since the Second Review Conference emphasised the importance of being party to the Convention, we are of the view that the justifications of the non-Parties to remain so would not stand on any solid ground if those remaining outside the Convention are not able to take advantage of the benefits that are offered to States Parties. Otherwise, the non-states parties have no incentive to join the Convention.
4. As the Second Review Conference underlined, the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realised as long as there remains even a single non-Party that could possess or acquire chemical weapons—let alone eight non-Parties. As the OPCW annual reports indicate, regrettably more than 90% of Schedule 3 chemicals transfers are headed to the Zionist regime of Israel. This is a clear disregard for the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex, and makes no stimulus for non-Parties to accede to it. Therefore, the policy-making organs and the Third Review Conference should fully address this important issue as well.
5. We are of the view that every opportunity and capacity at bilateral, regional and international levels shall be taken to implement the Action Plan for Universality in order to expedite the accession of all non-Parties to the Convention. In this regard, some practical measures such as prohibition of transferring scheduled chemicals to



non-Parties should be considered by the States Parties in the framework of the Organisation. In this context, the Organisation and all Member States must convey a strong message to the non-Parties remaining outside of the Convention to show their seriousness and strong will for the promotion of universality to the Convention.

6. We encourage the Technical Secretariat and all States Parties to take new concrete measures and initiatives further in order to effectively implement the Action Plan of the Universality.

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