



**OPCW**

**Technical Secretariat**

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External Relations Division

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**NOTE BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE  
UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

1. This Note supplements the information provided to the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Thirty-Sixth Session (EC-36/S/9, dated 9 March 2004).
2. The Council is requested to note the information contained herein.
3. As at 22 June 2004, there were 164 States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). There remain 18 signatory and 12 non-signatory States.
4. Since the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Council, the following States have joined the Convention: Rwanda (ratification 31 March 2004; entry into force 30 April 2004), Marshall Islands (ratification 19 May 2004; entry into force 18 June 2004), and Saint Kitts and Nevis (ratification 21 May 2004; entry into force 20 June 2004). Ten States have become States Parties since the date of the Council decision adopting the action plan for the universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003).
5. A regional workshop on the implementation and universality of the Convention in Africa, co-hosted by the OPCW and the Government of Ethiopia, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 22 April, in collaboration with the African Union Commission. The following States not Party to the Convention attended: Angola, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Madagascar, and Sierra Leone. The workshop was also attended by representatives of States Parties in Africa and elsewhere, and by representatives of the African Union, the European Union, and the League of Arab States (LAS).
6. The Director-General visited the LAS on 22 April and held discussions with its Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Amr Moussa, exploring possible areas of cooperation between the two organisations.
7. The Director-General also visited the Organisation of American States (OAS) on 27 April and delivered an address to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (hereinafter “the Committee”). He also met with the Secretary-General of the OAS, H.E. Dr César Gaviria, with the Chairman of the Committee, H.E. Mr Luis Enrique



Chase Plate, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the OAS, and with representatives of States not Party to the Convention to encourage adherence to the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean. Subsequently, the Committee adopted Resolution Number 4275/04, with a view to establishing the Americas as a region free of chemical and biological weapons.

8. A regional workshop on the Convention, co-hosted by the Government of Malta and the OPCW, was held in Malta from 5 to 7 May 2004. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from 22 States, including two States not Party to the Convention: Comoros and Israel. In addition, the workshop was attended by representatives of the European Union, and the League of Arab States, as well as by a representative from the Egyptian Council for Foreign Relations.
9. Informal consultations were held with interested States Parties on 27 May 2004 in The Hague, to discuss follow-up actions from the Malta workshop. In May 2004, the Director-General also had bilateral contacts with representatives of Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, and Syria based in The Hague.
10. Representatives from the Secretariat and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a bilateral visit to Phnom Penh on 10 and 11 June to assist the Government of Cambodia in its preparations to ratify the Convention. The Government of Japan also participated through its Embassy in Phnom Penh. Meetings were held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.E. Mr Hor Namhong, and with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence, and the Department of Customs and Excise. Presentations were also made to an interministerial meeting chaired by H.E. Dr Chem Widhya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The OPCW delegation also met with Mr Om Yen Tieng, adviser to the Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Mr Hun Sen.
11. A subregional workshop on universality and the practical implementation of the Convention, co-hosted by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the OPCW, was held in Nadi, Fiji, on 14 and 15 June 2004. It was attended by representatives of 10 States Parties in the region and by representatives of Marshall Islands (then a contracting State Party), Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. A representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross also attended. A bilateral meeting was held with a representative of Niue after the workshop. Increasing rates of adherence to the Convention in recent years by Forum island countries have more than doubled the number of States Parties that are also Forum members. Indeed, 13 of the 16 Forum members are now States Parties.
12. On 25 June, a meeting was also held with the participation of African States Parties and States not Party with missions based in Brussels, to discuss follow-up to the Addis Ababa workshop and the promotion of the universality of the Convention in Africa. Bilateral visits are planned to a number of States not Party in Africa during 2004.

13. In the last week of August, the Secretariat is planning a bilateral visit to Myanmar, in conjunction with UN-DDA, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

The Secretariat is also discussing with the European Union the prospects for joint actions in a number of areas later in 2004 and in 2005, including the promotion of the universality of the Convention.

14. Further regional, subregional, and bilateral activities are also planned, including events that provide opportunities to meet with smaller groups of countries and to intensify bilateral efforts to promote universality. The programme for the Asian regional meeting of National Authorities, to be held in Beijing, China, in September 2004, will include a component on the promotion of universality of the Convention. A sub-regional universality workshop for States not Party in the Caribbean is scheduled to be held in Saint Lucia in November 2004 in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. Bilateral visits are also under consideration to assist States not Party in Africa (e.g., Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia), Asia (e.g., Bhutan and Myanmar), and Latin America and the Caribbean (e.g., Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, and Honduras) with their preparations for adherence to the Convention.

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