



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

External Relations Division

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NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

COMMUNIQUÉ BY SUDAN

1. The Permanent Representation of the Sudan to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, on behalf of the African Group, has requested the Technical Secretariat to bring to the attention of Member States the conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop on the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 22 April 2004.
2. The aforementioned conclusions and recommendations are annexed hereto.

Annex: Conclusions and Recommendations of the Workshop on the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 22 April 2004



Annex

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Workshop on the Chemical Weapons Convention

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

20 – 22 April 2004

1. To promote universal adherence to and full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in the African Continent, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in collaboration with the Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Commission of the African Union, organised the above-mentioned Workshop, attended by the following countries and regional and international Organisations: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Ghana, Iran, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe, European Union Council Secretariat, League of Arab States, and UNHCR.
2. The Director-General of the OPCW, Mr Rogelio Pfirter, the State Minister for Trade and Industry of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr Haile Tadesse, and Commissioner Said Djinnit of the African Union Commission, made statements at the inauguration of the event emphasising the following: The advantage of universal adherence to the Convention; the importance of international cooperation to achieve universality and the creation of synergies between States Parties, the OPCW and Regional Organisations, namely the African Union. The Director-General emphasised that the two Khartoum Workshops, including efforts by other States Parties, had laid good foundations for progress on the issue of universality.
3. Presentations were also made by the following delegations: Ethiopia, South Africa, Chad, Sudan, Algeria, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union, the United States of America, and staff members of the OPCW Secretariat on a variety of topics relevant to implementation and universality, namely the promotion of cooperation with the African Union; the promulgation and implementation of national legislation, international cooperation programmes, and the way forward in Africa, among others.
4. The Workshop welcomed the rapid pace of accession to and ratification of the CWC in Africa in recent months, notably the accession of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and ratification by Chad and Rwanda, bringing the number of States Parties in Africa to 41.
5. In particular, the Workshop commended the decision by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to eliminate its chemical weapons under full OPCW verification and considered the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's decision as an incentive for other States Parties to follow suit.

6. The Workshop urged the remaining 12 African States not Party as well as other States not Party from other regions to accede to or ratify the CWC without delay.
7. The Workshop reaffirmed the Action Plan on Universality, welcomed the willingness of the following States not Party: Comoros, Congo (Brazaville), the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa); Liberia, Madagascar, and Sierra Leone to join the ranks of the OPCW soon, and called upon the Technical Secretariat to offer support and assistance as requested.
8. The Workshop welcomed the willingness of the delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States of America to consider any request for assistance with national implementation, and invited interested States Parties to contact them directly or through the Technical Secretariat.
9. The Workshop also urged the OPCW, in partnership with the African Union, to exert every effort to make Africa a Chemical Weapons Free Zone, in line with the recommendation of the Khartoum Workshop. In this regard, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) of the African Union was requested to assist in inscribing the OPCW and the CWC on the agenda of the relevant Organs of the African Union (the Executive Council, the Peace and Security Council, the Pan-African Parliament).
10. The Workshop welcomed the commitment by all States Parties to the CWC and urged those who had not yet promulgated their national legislations to do so in consistence with the CWC and the Plan of Action on Article VII.
11. The Workshop stressed that each State's own national security interests are its primary motive to join and implement the CWC and noted that the full implementation of the CWC could serve as a powerful deterrent to terrorists.
12. The Workshop stressed that the dissemination of information on the CWC should be included in educational programmes at all levels, in order to foster a culture of peace and disarmament, including the peaceful use of chemistry, and in order to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, including against vulnerable groups such as women and children.
13. The Workshop urged the Director-General of the OPCW to address the low representation of African States Parties in the Technical Secretariat, in line with the provisions of the Convention.
14. The Workshop requested the Director-General to recommend the establishment of a Regional Office in Africa.
15. The Workshop noted the need for more co-ordination between the African Group of the OPCW in The Hague and the African Members of the OPCW in Addis Ababa and the Commission of the African Union.

16. The Workshop hailed the efforts undertaken by the Director-General of the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat to promote the universality and uniform implementation of the Convention, and requested the Director-General to convene, in co-operation with the African Union, such a meeting every year.
17. The Workshop welcomed the idea of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the African Union Commission.
18. The Workshop called upon all African countries to ratify disarmament treaties relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction, including the Pelindaba Treaty.

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