



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Tenth Session  
7 – 11 November 2005

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**DECISION**

**UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSALITY ACTION PLAN**

**The Conference of the States Parties,**

**Recalling** that at its Eighth Session it noted the action plan for the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), which the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) had adopted at its Twenty-Third Meeting (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003);

**Noting with satisfaction** the progress that has been achieved since the adoption of the action plan and the increase in the number of States Parties to the Convention to 175, and **recognising** that the number of States not Party has decreased from 40 to 19 since the action plan was launched;

**Recognising also** the contribution that every new ratification of and accession to the Convention makes to the fostering of international peace and security and of global stability;

**Stressing** that achieving the object and purpose of the Convention requires ratification or accession by all States not Party, in particular those whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concern;

**Underlining** the important political, economic, and security benefits of becoming a State Party;

**Considering** that efforts to raise awareness of the Convention contribute to its universality;

**Recalling** the decision of the Council that the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorist efforts in the context of the Convention should focus, *inter alia*, on the promotion of universal adherence of the Convention;

**Welcoming** the designation of points of contact (POCs), on a voluntary and informal basis, in all regions and subregions, with the aim of assisting with the implementation of the universality action plan;

**Acknowledging** the importance of advancing cooperation with relevant international and regional organisations for the purpose of further promoting the universality of the



Convention, and **also welcoming** in this respect cooperation with a number of international, regional, and subregional organisations, including the United Nations and its regional disarmament bodies, the European Union, the African Union, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, and the Pacific Islands Forum;

**Recognising further** the efforts of States Parties and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to promote the universality of the Convention;

**Urging** all remaining States not Party to join the Convention and to confirm thereby their commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation;

**Hereby:**

1. **Calls** upon all States not Party to join the Convention without delay, in particular those whose non-adherence is a cause for serious concern;
2. **Urges** all remaining States not Party to join the Convention and to confirm thereby their commitment to the object and purpose of the Convention as well as their commitment to global peace and security;
3. **Emphasises** that the universality of the Convention is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose;
4. **Urges** all States Parties and the Secretariat to intensify their universality-related efforts with a view to increasing the number of States Parties to at least 180 by the end of 2006 and to achieving the universality of the Convention 10 years after its entry into force;
5. **Encourages** the States Parties and the Secretariat to enhance their efforts to further encourage States not Party to advance the process of ratification of or accession to the Convention;
6. **Also encourages** the States Parties and the Secretariat to help States not Party that have officially expressed their readiness to join the Convention;
7. **Strongly encourages** States Parties to participate actively in universality-related activities planned by the Secretariat and to support the Secretariat’s efforts in conducting bilateral-assistance visits to the remaining States not Party;
8. **Requests** the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive annual document on planned universality-related activities, and to provide information to the Council on proposed initiatives, including on potential synergies with States Parties willing and able to join universality-related efforts;
9. **Also requests** the Secretariat to provide further up-to-date information regarding the status of States not Party vis-à-vis the Convention, their prospects for adherence, their participation in universality-related activities, any significant chemical-industry issue, and any other issues relevant to the Convention;

10. **Further requests** the Secretariat and States Parties to raise awareness of the Convention amongst States not Party, relevant international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, and the chemical industry, with a view to promoting the universality of the Convention;
11. **Encourages** the POCs who have been designated on a voluntary and informal basis, to continue to assist with the implementation of the action plan and for the purposes of effective coordination; and
12. **Decides** to continue with the action plan, and **further decides** that, at its Eleventh Session, it will review the results and progress of that plan, and that, at its Twelfth Session, 10 years after the entry into force of the Convention, it will review the implementation of the plan and take any decision it deems necessary, in particular addressing the status of those States not Party whose non-adherence to the Convention is a cause for serious concern.

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