



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Sixth Session  
14 - 19 May 2001  
Agenda Item 11

C-VI/DEC.9  
17 May 2001  
Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION**

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE OPCW**

**The Conference of the States Parties,**

**Bearing in mind** Article XXIV of the Convention, Rules 87 to 92 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter the “Conference”), as well as Rules 15, 17 and 19, and 51 to 55 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council (hereinafter the “Council”), and in accordance with previous decisions of the Conference and the Council on the distribution of documents,

**Taking note** of the difficulties experienced by Member States, and especially by their National Authorities, owing to the late translation of official documents or to the lack of translation of specialised documents necessary for the implementation of the Convention,

**Considering** that the effective use of all official languages, on an equal basis, is coherent with the principle of universality of the Convention and essential for its equal implementation,

**Noting with appreciation** the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter the “Secretariat”), to improve the accuracy of translation and interpretation, and encouraging the Secretariat to continue to enhance the quality of such services,

**Upon recommendation** of the Council at its Twenty-Fourth Session,

**Hereby:**

**Requests** the Secretariat to ensure respect for equal treatment of the six official languages of the OPCW, as well as to promote the appropriate linguistic balance in the dissemination of information within the Organisation;

**Further requests** the Secretariat to strongly endeavour, in particular, to simultaneously distribute in the six official languages the documents mentioned by the Rules of Procedure of the Conference and the Council, as well as all documents related to the decision-making process, including notes by the Director-General or the Secretariat and National papers, with due regard to the time frames established in the Rules of Procedure, by the Conference or by the Council.

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