



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Eighth Session
20 – 24 October 2003

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DECISION

PLAN OF ACTION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OBLIGATIONS

The Conference of the States Parties,

Recalling the recommendations that the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (First Review Conference) made on national implementation measures (as covered under agenda item 7(c)(v) of its report, subparagraphs 7.74 to 7.83 of RC-1/5, dated 9 May 2003), in particular the agreement in subparagraph 7.83(h) of that report to develop, at its next regular session, a plan of action based on a recommendation from the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) regarding the implementation of obligations under Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), with the objective of fostering the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention by all States Parties;

Stressing the need to fully implement the recommendations of the First Review Conference on national implementation measures;

Recognising how important and how urgent it is that States Parties complete their obligations under Article VII to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, the necessary measures to implement the Convention;

Convinced that the full and effective implementation of Article VII by all States Parties also contributes to universal adherence to the Convention;

Concerned that a large number of States Parties have not yet fulfilled the range of obligations under Article VII, and **recognising** that many of them may have difficulties in doing so; and

Taking note of the report by the Director-General to the Eighth Session of the Conference on national implementation measures (C-8/DG.5, dated 18 September 2003, and Add.1, dated 22 October 2003);

Having received the recommendation by the Council on the Plan of Action on national implementation measures (EC-M-23/DEC.2, dated 21 October 2003),



Hereby:

Identification and analysis of problems and needs (action items for the Technical Secretariat and States Parties)

1. **Requests** the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to intensify its work with those States Parties that have difficulties in adopting the measures required under Article VII, by further identifying, analysing, and addressing those difficulties;
2. **Further requests** the Secretariat to submit to the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Council a report covering, *inter alia*, problems that have been identified, requirements of States Parties for support, the capabilities of the OPCW (that is, both of the Secretariat and of the States Parties) to provide implementation support, and any recommendations relevant to the implementation of the plan of action;
3. **Requests** States Parties seeking assistance of any kind in meeting their national implementation obligations and that have not yet informed the Secretariat of what assistance they require, to do so preferably before 1 March 2004;

Resources for implementation support (action items for the Technical Secretariat and States Parties)

4. **Requests** the Secretariat, within the parameters set by the OPCW Programme and Budget, to offer sustained technical support to States Parties that request it for the establishment and effective functioning of National Authorities, the enactment of national implementing legislation, and the adoption of any administrative measures required in accordance with Article VII;
5. **Welcomes** voluntary contributions from States Parties towards the implementation of this plan of action, and **requests** the Secretariat to implement the plan of action within the resources approved for the OPCW Programme and Budget, together with any voluntary contributions received for national implementation, and in a cost-effective manner;
6. **Encourages** States Parties to lend advice, upon request, to other States Parties in drafting and adopting national measures necessary to implement the Convention, *inter alia* to ensure that the laws reflect the comprehensive nature of the Convention by covering all activities that are to be prohibited or required in accordance with the Convention, and that involve the use of any toxic chemicals and their precursors; to cover the provision of annual declarations on past and anticipated activities; to ensure the implementation of the provisions related to transfers of scheduled chemicals; and to cover the annual submission of information on national protective programmes in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article X;
7. **Requests** States Parties able to provide assistance of any kind towards national implementation in other States Parties to inform the Secretariat, preferably before 1 March 2004, of what they can offer;

8. **Requests** the Secretariat to further develop and improve its implementation support programme, including by mobilising States Parties' efforts so as to provide, upon request and within the limits on available resources, technical assistance and technical evaluations to States Parties in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, in the areas identified in the section of the report of the First Review Conference on national implementation measures (subparagraph 7.74 to 7.83 of RC-1/5);
9. **Encourages** the Secretariat to identify and, by mutual consent, engage with regional, subregional and other relevant groups of States Parties that can render support to the States Parties concerned in their implementation efforts;
10. **Encourages** the Secretariat and the States Parties to develop partnerships with relevant regional organisations and agencies that could render support to States Parties in their implementation work;

Overall time-frame, intermediate steps, and target date (action items for States Parties)

11. Without prejudice to the timelines set by the Convention, recalling States Parties' obligations under Article VII, and reminding them that it has been more than six years since the entry into force of the Convention, **agrees** that it is imperative that those States Parties that still need to do so take the necessary steps and set realistic target dates for these steps leading to the enactment of the necessary legislation, including penal legislation, and/or the adoption of administrative measures to implement the Convention no later than the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, scheduled for November 2005;
12. **Calls upon** those States Parties that still need to do so to make every effort to adhere to the overall time-frame established in paragraph 11 above, as well as to the steps and target dates they have established for themselves, and to maintain regular contact with the Secretariat about the implementation of these steps and target dates;
13. **Encourages** States Parties and the Secretariat to take measures to raise awareness of the prohibitions and requirements of the Convention, *inter alia* in their armed forces, in industry, and in their scientific and technological communities;
14. **Underlines** that the steps mentioned in paragraph 11 above should include:
 - (a) designating or establishing a National Authority and notifying the Secretariat thereof in accordance with Article VII of the Convention, as soon as possible;
 - (b) taking the steps necessary to enact the legislation, including penal legislation, and/or to adopt the administrative measures States Parties need in order to implement the Convention in accordance with their constitutional processes; and
 - (c) providing the Secretariat with the full text of their national implementing legislation, including updates, or, in the case of States Parties with a monist legal system, with information on the specific measures they have taken to implement the Convention;

15. **Urges** States Parties that have not yet done so to review their existing regulations in the field of trade in chemicals in order to render them consistent with the object and purpose of the Convention;

Oversight by the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties (action items for States Parties and the Technical Secretariat)
16. **Requests** the Secretariat to report to the Ninth Session of the Conference and to every second session of the Council starting with the Thirty-Sixth, in March 2004, on the progress made in implementing this plan of action;
17. **Further requests** the Council to provide guidance to, and to coordinate with, the Secretariat as necessary and to monitor the implementation of this plan of action;
18. **Also requests** States Parties that lend advice, upon request, to other States Parties on the drafting and adopting of national measures to implement the Convention, to keep the OPCW informed of their actions and the results they have achieved; and
19. **Undertakes to review**, at its Ninth Session, the progress made in implementing this plan of action, and to **decide** on any further action needed; and **undertakes to review further**, at its Tenth Session, the status of implementation of Article VII and to **consider** and **decide on** any appropriate measures to be taken, if necessary, in order to ensure compliance by all States Parties with Article VII.