

AG/RES. 2000 (XXXIV-O/04)

THE AMERICAS AS A BIOLOGICAL- AND CHEMICAL-WEAPONS-FREE REGION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2004)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN the Annual Report of the Permanent Council to the General Assembly, in particular the section related to hemispheric security issues (AG/doc.4265/04 add. 5 corr. 1);

AWARE of the determination of the international community to eradicate the development, production, use, stockpiling, and transfer of biological and chemical weapons;

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration on Security in the Americas, adopted at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City, in October 2003, in which the states of the Hemisphere declared their objective “to make the Americas a region free of biological and chemical weapons,” and in particular its paragraphs 4.m, 4.y, 12, 13, and 14;

RECALLING its resolution AG/RES. 1236 (XXIII-O/93), “Cooperation for Security and Development in the Hemisphere: Regional Contributions to Global Security,” which recognized the efforts of the member states to contribute to regional and global security and which commended them for their adherence to the principles of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention);

RECALLING ALSO its resolutions AG/RES. 1624 (XXIX-O/99), “Inter-American Support for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction”; and AG/RES. 1966 (XXXIII-O/03), “The Americas as a Biological- and Chemical-Weapons-Free Region”;

NOTING that 26 member states are states parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and 31 member states are states parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention);

UNDERSCORING the importance of universal participation by all member states in the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention and their full implementation, in accordance with the domestic legal framework of each member state;

MINDFUL of the fundamental importance of full implementation and strict observance by member states of arms limitation, disarmament, and nonproliferation obligations and commitments; and

WELCOMING the activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), among them the establishment of a working group, that encourage universal accession to and foster full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and of the practical program of work undertaken by the states parties to the Biological Weapons Convention aimed at strengthening the Convention and stemming the biological weapons threat,

RESOLVES:

1. To concretely fulfill the shared commitment of member states to make the Americas a region free of biological and chemical weapons.

2. To reaffirm member states' commitment to arms control, disarmament, and the nonproliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, and to the principles and norms of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention); and the 1925 Geneva Protocol to the 1907 Hague Convention.
3. To urge those member states which have not yet done so to consider acceding as soon as possible to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention, to consider subscribing to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (ICOC), and to promote the universalization of these conventions and arrangements.
4. To urge member states to adopt, at the national level, legal and administrative measures for implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.
5. To welcome the specific steps taken by a number of member states to accede to and implement said Conventions.
6. To urge member states' participation in upcoming regional meetings of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which encourage the universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention, legislative measures to implement it, and the establishment of National Authorities to the OPCW.
7. To urge member states which have not yet done so to establish National Authorities responsible for liaising with the OPCW, in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.
8. To welcome efforts of the states parties to the Biological Weapons Convention to promote measures for national implementation and for strengthening of the Convention in order to stem the biological weapons threat.
9. To carry the message of the importance of the implementation of, and compliance with, relevant international obligations outside the region.
10. To request the Permanent Council to discuss and review, in the framework of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, the efforts of member states to fulfill their commitment to a region free of biological and chemical weapons, in accordance with paragraph 13 of the Declaration on Security in the Americas.
11. To urge member states to implement the recommendations contained in the Declaration on Security in the Americas to prevent and eliminate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
12. To request the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Director-General of the OPCW.
13. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, which will be carried out within the resources allocated in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.