

AN ACTION PLAN FOR REALISING THE UNIVERSALISATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION

Australian Working Paper

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention is a cornerstone of international security. A global ban on the development, production, stockpiling and use of such weapons requires universal adherence to the Convention and full compliance by all State Parties. Full implementation of the Convention is an obligation under UNSCR 1540 and UNSCR 1673. Moreover, universalisation and full implementation of the Convention is vital to the security of all against the threat of bio-terrorism.

The States Parties should thus reaffirm at the sixth Review Conference their commitment to ensuring the universalisation and full implementation of the Convention within their national legal frameworks. To this end, the States Parties should agree to an action plan including:

- calling on all States not party to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay and to adhere voluntarily to its provisions until such time as they become parties.
- calling on States Parties to introduce and strengthen legislative, administrative and other measures, including accountability, physical protection and enforcement of regulations and penal codes, to ensure the full implementation of the Convention.
- using, as appropriate, bilateral contacts with States not parties, and regional and multilateral fora, to promote the political, security and economic benefits of ratification or accession to the Convention.
- undertaking initiatives, whether on a national, regional or international basis, to promote universalisation and full implementation of the Convention.
- providing, where States Parties are in a position to do so, assistance to States in the process of ratifying or acceding to the Convention, and to States Parties on measures, including on legislation, to implement the Convention.
- seeking as appropriate the support and assistance of relevant regional and multilateral organisations toward realising the universalisation and full implementation of the Convention.
- nominating voluntarily points of contact to facilitate information exchange on universalisation and implementation measures among the States Parties.
- submitting and, where possible, making publicly available (e.g. posted on the Internet) Confidence Building Measures to make the process of implementing and adhering to the Convention more transparent.
- reporting to the Convention Meetings Secretariat details of all universalisation and implementation activities for the purposes of compilation and dissemination among the States Parties.