

Draft resolution of the German Bundestag, No. 16/8755, sponsored by the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats

**For a successful Chemical Weapons Convention review conference and
for a strengthened treaty regime**

The German Parliament declares:

Despite some difficulties in implementation the Chemical Weapons Convention is a success story. ...

The goal of universality has almost been reached. ...

In the past, questions have repeatedly been raised, whether all states-parties have comprehensively declared all CW stocks. ... It seems important that trust in the effectiveness of the treaty is not undermined by delays in the destruction process. There can be no doubt about the determination of Russia and the United States to eliminate their chemical weapons.

The OPCW is an exceptional organization in the history of arms control and nonproliferation. ... But during the last couple of years, the effectiveness of the OPCW's monitoring mechanisms has been called into question as a result of progress made in chemistry and the development of novel chemical agents.

One of the biggest achievements of the CWC is the full proscription of chemical weapons. The growing interest of some states parties in the development and use of so-called "non-lethal" weapons (incapacitants) threatens to undermine the comprehensive ban on chemical weapons. It is therefore important that the review conference clarifies that the use of toxic chemicals as a method of warfare remains prohibited. There is a necessity to create a common understanding among states-parties under what circumstances the use of toxic agents is not prohibited and to agree jointly which agents may be used for riot control purposes.

...

From April 7-18, 2008 the second CWC review conference will take place in The Hague. In addition to the goal of universalization of the CWC, questions of the verification of non-lethal chemical weapons and measures to strengthen the OPCW have to be discussed. Furthermore, new developments in chemistry and the consequences of the developments of chemical agents for the OPCW's verification activities have to be discussed.

The German Bundestag urges the German government to

1. continue to work towards universalization of the CWC at the review conference;
2. work towards an affirmation of the goal of destruction of all chemical weapons within treaty deadlines and its importance for success of the treaty;
3. work towards an agreement that enables the OPCW to use the most modern verification technologies and to apply these technologies and form a clear statement to the effect that doubts about the compliance of certain states-parties have to be clarified through challenge inspections;

4. to press towards a decision of the review conference that would confirm that the use of toxic chemicals is only allowed in quantities and for purposes that are in conformity with the Convention's general purpose criterion. In particular, the government should work towards an agreement that states-parties will, in a timely manner, develop a common understanding of which so-called 'incapacitants' are not prohibited and under what circumstances the use of such agents is permitted.

Berlin, April 9, 2008.