



SAN SALVADOR PLAN OF ACTION TO PROMOTE UNIVERSALITY AND NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND THEIR DESTRUCTION, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS BWC

Introduction:

I. *Recognizing* the grave and growing threat of weapons of mass destruction being used in conflicts and terrorist actions around the world today, constituting a violation of human rights, the right to life and/or the right to peace.

II. *Recalling* that this year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the BWC

III. *Mindful* of the need to advocate for greater universality of this Convention as well as to legislate for improved national implementation of this Convention in our respective countries

IV. *Emphasizing* the need to guarantee the effective and concrete implementation of the Convention by all States, including those States that have ratified and implemented said Convention, and that the Parliament has an essential role in performing the supervision and control over the Executive branch in this matter, which is of strategic importance to national security and the protection of civilians and the environment.

V. *Mindful also* of the many ways that Members of Parliament can play an important role in promoting greater universality and national implementation of the BWC, including through cooperation with other States and the United Nations, in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), which closes the gaps in non-proliferation treaties to prevent non-state actors (for example criminal organizations or terrorist groups) from obtaining the most dangerous weapons in the world.

We, Members of Parliament from 40 countries worldwide gathered at PGA's 37th Annual Forum, will take one or more of the following steps, as appropriate, upon conclusion of this Annual Forum:

I. Encourage our colleagues in Parliament and Government to take action in order to achieve universality and improve national implementation of the BWC through the different agencies of the state.

II. Raise the matter in the plenary of our Parliaments and/or convene Committee or Sub-Committee Meetings in our respective Parliaments to raise awareness on this matter and to promote, as appropriate, ratification and/or implementation of the BWC, identifying concrete steps to move forward in this regard.



- III. Introduce Motions, Orders, Parliamentary Questions, Resolutions or Bills, in our respective Parliaments to promote ratification and/or implementation of the BWC, as appropriate in our respective countries.
- IV. Take the necessary measures to ensure the concrete and effective implementation of the BWC, as well as ensuring the obligation that rests upon States to fully respect and implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), which imposes upon UN Member States the duty to prevent non-state actors from having access to any type of weapon of mass destruction, including biological and toxin weapons.
- V. Support the BWC Implementation Support Unit in its efforts to facilitate assistance on implementation of the Convention and encourage States to receive such assistance.
- VI. Encourage, at the same time, our governments to participate actively in the upcoming BWC meetings, in particular the Review Conference in 2016.
- VII. Commit ourselves to fostering universality and implementation of the BWC within the regional and international forums in which we participate.
- VIII. Undertake to inform PGA within two months of the conclusion of this Annual Forum of what steps we have been able to take so far, pursuant to this Plan of Action.
- IX. We express our sincere appreciation to the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador and PGA for their organization of this Annual Forum, as well as to the sponsor organizations and governments who generously supported this event, SIDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada, Department of Foreign Affairs of Australia and UNDP.

Done this 1st Day of December, 2015 in San Salvador, with equally valid copies in English, French and Spanish.