

Introduction

States Parties to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) will reconvene in The Hague for the treaty's Third Review Conference during 8-19 April 2013. As a contribution to facilitating and stimulating active participation in the Review Conference, the Harvard Sussex Program on Chemical and Biological Weapons (HSP) and CBW Events have developed this comprehensive *CWC Resource Guide*. It contains documents relating to the regime to control chemical weapons, including: official documents and other texts; documents from the United Nations and other regional organisations; documents from informal arrangements; and supporting material from various non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Although designed primarily for Review Conference delegates, HSP hopes this *Resource Guide* will also be a useful resource for researchers, NGOs, journalists and others in civil society with an interest in the regime to control chemical weapons, the focal point of which is the CWC.

Background to the Resource Guide

The production of a resource guide for the Third CWC Review Conference has been realised through financial assistance from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

It builds on the precedent of the *NPT Briefing Book*, first published in 1990 by the University of Southampton Mountbatten Centre for International Studies (MCIS) which served as a model for a number of subsequent CBW related publications including:

- The *Briefing Book for the BWC Sixth Review Conference 2006*, which was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and prepared by the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), the Harvard Sussex Program (HSP) and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)
- The *Resource Guide for the Second CWC Review Conference 2008*, which was funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and prepared by the Harvard Sussex Program
- The *Seventh BWC Review Conference Briefing Book 2011*, which was funded by the United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office and prepared by the Harvard Sussex Program and CBW Events

The primary idea behind the *Resource Guide* is to assist delegates to the Third Review Conference in their work and thus to contribute to a successful and constructive outcome to the Conference. By collecting together as many of the key relevant documents as possible, the authors hope to provide a convenient reference source for use during the Review Conference, and beyond. Having attended many previous CWC meetings, as well as other international diplomatic meetings, we felt it would be advantageous to have as many of the relevant documents as possible collected and collated in one publication. We also hope that this *Resource Guide* will raise awareness of the CWC both with states that have not yet joined the Convention, and with researchers, academics, journalists and the general public who have an interest in issues relating to it. In producing this *Resource Guide* we also hoped to demonstrate the constructive input which civil society can make to international meetings such as the Second Review Conference. HSP is a longstanding supporter of the CWC and sees this *Resource Guide* as one of its contributions to nurturing and strengthening the Convention.

Selection of Documents

Editorial control regarding the content of this volume lies with the authors. There may be questions as to why one document was included and another excluded; why only certain extracts from documents were included; and why we included only a limited number of OPCW documents.

The primary selection criterion relates to available space and the need to avoid making this Resource Guide overly bulky and heavy. In some cases this entailed using only key extracts from material and in cases where only an extract from a long document is included, a reference to the original text is provided (most are accessible in full on the internet). A number of OPCW documents are not included on the grounds that many, if not all Third Review Conference documents will be available on the OPCW website and in hard copy from the OPCW documents counter during the Review Conference and in the weeks and months preceding it.

In order to include those documents of most relevance to the Third Review Conference, we have mostly restricted our source materials to those published since the Second Review Conference in 2008. For practical reasons the selection of documents is also limited to English language documents. However, many are available in all six official UN languages, so Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish versions should be available from the websites referenced throughout the *Resource Guide*.

The *Resource Guide* will also be posted at <http://www.cwc2013.info> as well as on HSP's website, <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/spru/hsp>, so that people can download it if they wish. Electronic copies will also be distributed in memory stick and CD-Rom formats. While we have tried to be as comprehensive as possible, it is likely that we have missed some useful documents or that people will take issue with our selection policy. The authors therefore welcome comments on this *Resource Guide*, including suggestions of additional documents that may be included in a future edition. Readers are encouraged to contact the authors with any suggestions using the contact details provided on the back cover.