

SOVEREIGN EQUALITY UNDER THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: DONUTS OVER HOLES

James D Fry *

ABSTRACT

By the very nature of treaties, states give up some of their sovereignty in order to achieve a common, desired objective between the parties to the treaty. When it comes to the Chemical Weapons Convention, however, commentators overly emphasize its impact on state sovereignty and equality without acknowledging the ways that it actually preserves state sovereignty and equality, arguably better than other multilateral treaties. This Article brings balance to the debate by focusing on these relatively innovative and much overlooked provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, with the hope of encouraging the last seven non-member states to join and the rest to have even greater confidence in this most important of disarmament regimes.

*Assistant Professor of Law and Deputy Director of Mixed Degrees, University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law; Legal Consultant, United Nations Office at Geneva.