

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF  
BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN  
WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 10-14 December 2012

Secretariat:  
BWC Implementation Support Unit  
United Nations Office for Disarmament  
Affairs (Geneva Branch)  
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

tel: +41 (0)22 917 2230  
fax: +41 (0)22 917 0483  
e-mail: [bwc@unog.ch](mailto:bwc@unog.ch)  
web: <http://www.unog.ch/bwc>

To the Permanent Representatives in Geneva of the  
States Parties and Signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition  
of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological  
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

21 November 2012

**BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

Excellency,

I am writing once again in my capacity as Chairman of the 2012 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention, to provide a further update on preparations for the Meeting of States Parties, which will be held at the Palais des Nations from 10 to 14 December 2012.

Further to my letter to you of 27 September and my meetings with the regional groups on 4 October, I have been consulting delegations on the agenda and programme of work for the Meeting of States Parties. I would like to propose one change to the provisional agenda circulated with my letter of 27 September (and now available in all languages as BWC/MSP/2012/1). I would suggest adding an additional item 4 *bis*, "Consideration of the report of the Meeting of Experts", in accordance with the specific decision of the Seventh Review Conference that the Meeting of Experts "will prepare for the consideration of the Meeting of States Parties a factual report reflecting its deliberations" and that the Meeting of States Parties will, *inter alia*, consider that report (BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part III, paragraphs 12 and 13 refer). A revised provisional agenda incorporating this addition is attached; I trust delegations will find it acceptable.

I also attach for your consideration a provisional programme of work, which follows the approach I proposed in my letter of 27 September and in the regional group consultations, allocating equal time to each of the three standing agenda items and the biennial item. I am pleased to inform you that the high-level segment on the opening day will go ahead, and we will be joined by the heads of several intergovernmental organizations who will share with us their priorities in areas of common interest and their views on the opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with the BWC over the course of the intersessional programme.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome officially our new Vice-chair of the Meeting of States Parties, Ambassador Urs Schmid of Switzerland, who replaced Ambassador Alexandre Fasel with effect from 15 October 2012. Ambassador Schmid has already made an important contribution to our work by hosting a meeting in New York on universalization of the Convention, and I look forward to working with him, and with our other Vice-chair, Dr. Cezary Lusinski of Poland, to ensure a productive and successful Meeting of States Parties.

Finally, I would like to encourage all delegations to register their participation in the Meeting of States Parties, if they have not already done so. Details of the registration procedure, along with the latest documents and other information, are available on the ISU website: [www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting](http://www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting). Please do not hesitate to contact the ISU if you need any further information.

Thank you again for your support and valuable feedback; I look forward to working with you at the Meeting of States Parties to further the important goals of the Biological Weapons Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Boujemâa Delmi  
Ambassador and Permanent  
Representative of Algeria  
Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties

Attachments: (1) revised provisional agenda for the Meeting of States Parties (1 page)  
(2) proposed programme of work for the Meeting of States Parties (2 pages)

## **(Revised) Provisional agenda for the Meeting of States Parties**

### **Submitted by the Chairman**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the programme of work
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure

### **4 bis. Consideration of the report of the Meeting of Experts**

5. General debate
  6. Standing agenda item: cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X
  7. Standing agenda item: review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention
  8. Standing agenda item: strengthening national implementation
  9. Biennial item: how to enable fuller participation in the Confidence-building Measures (CBMs)
  10. Progress with universalization of the Convention
  11. Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit
  12. Arrangements for the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2013
  13. Adoption of the report of the meeting
  14. Closing of the meeting
-

## Provisional programme of work for the Meeting of States Parties

### Submitted by the Chairman

<i>Day</i>	<i>AM (10:00–13:00)</i>	<i>PM (15:00–18:00)</i>
Mon 10/12	<p>Opening formalities (agenda items 1-4)</p> <p>Consideration of the report of the Meeting of Experts (agenda item 4 <i>bis</i>)</p> <p>General debate (agenda item 5) – including high-level segment</p>	<p>General debate (agenda item 5 – continued)</p> <p>Informal session for NGO statements</p>
Tue 11/12	<p>Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X (agenda item 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– reports by States Parties on their implementation of Article X, and reports by the ISU on the operation of the database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers</li> <li>– ways and means to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;</li> <li>– coordination of cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders</li> <li>– challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible means of overcoming these</li> <li>– capacity-building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity, and for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation</li> </ul>	<p>Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention (agenda item 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– advances in enabling technologies, including high-throughput systems for sequencing, synthesizing and analyzing DNA; bioinformatics and computational tools; and systems biology</li> <li>– new science and technology developments that have potential for uses contrary to the provisions of the Convention</li> <li>– new science and technology developments that have potential benefits for the Convention, including those of special relevance to disease surveillance, diagnosis and mitigation</li> <li>– science- and technology-related developments relevant to the activities of multilateral organizations such as the WHO, OIE, FAO, IPPC and OPCW</li> <li>– any other science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention</li> <li>– possible measures for strengthening national biological risk management, as appropriate, in research and development involving new science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention</li> <li>– voluntary codes of conduct and other measures to encourage responsible conduct by scientists, academia and industry</li> <li>– education and awareness-raising about risks and benefits of life sciences and biotechnology.</li> </ul>

<i>Day</i>	<i>AM (10:00–13:00)</i>	<i>PM (15:00–18:00)</i>
Wed 12/12	<p>Strengthening national implementation (agenda item 8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ways and means to enhance national implementation, sharing best practices and experiences, including the voluntary exchange of information among States Parties on their national implementation, enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions</li> <li>– a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention, especially Articles III and IV</li> <li>– regional and sub-regional cooperation that can assist national implementation of the Convention</li> </ul>	<p>How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (agenda item 9)</p>
Thu 13/12	<p>10:00–11:00: Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X (agenda item 6)</p> <p>11:00–12:00: Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention (agenda item 7)</p> <p>12:00–13:00: Strengthening national implementation (agenda item 8)</p>	<p>15:00–16:00: How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (agenda item 9)</p> <p>16:00–17:00: Progress with universalization of the Convention (agenda item 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Reports from the Chairman and States Parties on universalization activities</li> </ul> <p>17:00–18:00: Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit (agenda item 11)</p>
Fri 14/12	<p>Arrangements for the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2013 (agenda item 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nomination of the Chairman and Vice-chairs for 2013</li> <li>– Dates for the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2013</li> </ul> <p>Informal consultations on the report of the meeting</p>	<p>Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 13)</p> <p>Closing of the meeting (agenda item 14)</p>