

**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**

BWC/MSP/2008/CRP.1
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2008 Meeting
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Item 11 of the agenda
Adoption of the report of the Meeting

DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Submitted by the Chairman

Introduction

1. The Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference 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 (BWC/CONF.VI/6), in the Decisions and Recommendations section, contained the following decision:

“The Conference decides:

- (a) To hold four annual meetings of the States Parties of one week duration each year commencing in 2007, prior to the Seventh Review Conference, to be held not later than the end of 2011, to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on:
 - (i) Ways and means to enhance national implementation, including enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions;
 - (ii) Regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation of the Convention;
 - (iii) National, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins;
 - (iv) Oversight, education, awareness raising and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim of preventing misuse in the context of advances in bio-science and bio-technology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the Convention;
 - (v) With a view to enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and

containment of infectious diseases: (1) for States Parties in need of assistance, identifying requirements and requests for capacity enhancement; and (2) from States Parties in a position to do so, and international organizations, opportunities for providing assistance related to these fields;

- (vi) Provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, including improving national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis and public health systems.
- (b) Each meeting of the States Parties will be prepared by a one week meeting of experts. The topics for consideration at each annual meeting of States Parties will be as follows: items (i) and (ii) will be considered in 2007; items (iii) and (iv) in 2008; item (v) in 2009; and item (vi) in 2010. The first meeting will be chaired by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States, the second by a representative of the Eastern European Group, the third by a representative of the Western Group, and the fourth by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States.
- (c) The meetings of experts will prepare factual reports describing their work;
- (d) All meetings, both of experts and of States Parties, will reach any conclusions or results by consensus;
- (e) The Seventh Review Conference will consider the work and outcome of these meetings and decide on any further action.”

2. The 2007 Meeting of States Parties decided that the 2008 Meeting of Experts would be held in Geneva from 18 to 22 August 2008, and that the 2008 Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from 1 to 5 December 2008, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference.

3. By resolution 62/60, adopted without a vote on 5 December 2007, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences including all assistance to the annual meetings of the States parties and the meetings of experts.

4. The 2008 Meeting of Experts convened in Geneva from 18 to 22 August 2008. At its closing meeting on 22 August 2008, the Meeting of Experts adopted its Report by consensus (BWC/MSP/2008/MX/3).

Organization of the Meeting of States Parties

5. In accordance with the decision of the 2007 Meeting of States Parties, the 2008 Meeting of States Parties was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 1 to 5 December 2008, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Georgi Avramchev of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

6. At its first meeting, on 1 December 2008, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2008/1) and programme of work (BWC/MSP/2008/2) as proposed by the Chairman. The Chairman also drew the attention of delegations to two reports: the report of the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2008/3) and a report on universalization activities prepared by the Chairman (BWC/MSP/2008/4).

7. At the same meeting, following a suggestion by the Chairman, the Meeting of States Parties adopted as its rules of procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Sixth Review Conference, as contained in Annex II of the Final Document of the Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VI/6).

8. Mr. Richard Lennane, Head of the Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Meeting of States Parties. Mr. Piers Millett, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Deputy Secretary. Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh, Associate Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, and Ms. Tiffany Limtanakool served in the Secretariat.

Participation at the Meeting of States Parties

9. ... States Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting of States Parties as follows: ...

10. In addition, two states that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Meeting of States Parties without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure: Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic.

11. One state, Israel, neither party nor signatory to the Convention, participated in the Meeting of States Parties as an observer, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a).

12. The United Nations, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), attended the Meeting of States Parties in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

13. The European Commission, the International Committee of the Red Cross, INTERPOL, the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) were granted observer status to participate in the Meeting of States Parties in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

14. ... non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of States Parties under rule 44, paragraph 5.

15. A list of all participants in the Meeting of States Parties is contained in document BWC/MSP/2008/INF.2.

Work of the Meeting of States Parties

16. In accordance with the programme of work (BWC/MSP/2008/2), the Meeting of States Parties held a general debate in which the following ... States Parties made statements: ... One international organisation also participated in the general debate.

17. Between 1 and 3 December, the Meeting of States Parties held a number of working sessions devoted to national, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins (agenda item 6) and to oversight, education, awareness raising and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim of preventing misuse in the context of advances in bio-science and bio-technology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the Convention (agenda item 7). On 4 December, one working session was devoted to reports from the Chairman and States Parties on universalization activities (agenda item 8) and the report of the Implementation Support Unit (agenda item 9).

18. In the course of its work, the Meeting of States Parties was able to draw on a number of working papers submitted by States Parties, as well as on statements and presentations made by States Parties, international organizations and the Implementation Support Unit, which were circulated in the Meeting.

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28. States Parties are encouraged to inform the Seventh Review Conference of, *inter alia*, any actions, measures or other steps that they may have taken on the basis of the discussions at the 2008 Meeting of Experts and the outcome of the 2008 Meeting of States Parties, in order to facilitate the Seventh Review Conference's consideration of the work and outcome of these meetings and its decision on any further action, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VI/6, Part III, paragraph 7 (e)).

29. The Meeting of States Parties reviewed progress towards obtaining universality for the Convention and considered the Report from the Chairman on Universalization Activities (BWC/MSP/2008/4), as well as reports from States Parties on their activities to promote universalization. The States Parties reaffirmed the particular importance of the ratification of the Convention by signatory states and accession to the Convention without delay by those which have not signed the Convention, contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention. In this context, the Meeting took note of the reports, and called on all States Parties

to continue to promote universalization, and to support the universalization activities of the Chairman and the Implementation Support Unit, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference.

30. The Meeting of States Parties also considered the Report of the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2008/3), including the report on participation in the confidence-building measures (CBMs). The Meeting took note of the Report, and expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Implementation Support Unit. The Meeting noted with concern that participation in the confidence-building measures had fallen slightly since 2007, and encouraged all States Parties to make an annual CBM submission in accordance with the decisions of the respective Review Conferences, seeking assistance through the Implementation Support Unit where required. The Meeting called on States Parties to continue working closely with the Implementation Support Unit in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference.

Documentation

31. A list of official documents of the Meeting of States Parties, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in Annex II to this Report. All documents on this list are available on the Implementation Support Unit website at <http://www.unog.ch/bwc> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

Conclusion of the Meeting of States Parties

32. At its closing meeting on ... December 2008, the Meeting of States Parties approved the nomination by the Western Group of ... to be Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2009. The Meeting decided that the Meeting of Experts would be held in Geneva from ... to ... 2009, and that the Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from ... to ... 2009, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference.

33. At the same meeting, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its Report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2008/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2008/5.
