



ქვეყნის გარე ურთიერთობებისა და სსპა  
საერთაშორისო ორგანიზაციებთან  
საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA GEORGIE  
AUPRES DE L'ONU ET DES AUTRES  
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE

N 49/31069

24/07/2018



31069-49-2-201807242007

Excellency,

I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia cordially invites all interested States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention for a peer review compliance exercise. The Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia will open the Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 14 to 15 November 2018.

The primary objective of this exercise is to demonstrate that the Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) complies with the provisions and obligations of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). In opening a BTWC-relevant facility to all interested States Parties, Georgia moreover hopes to demonstrate that such an on-site visit can enhance confidence in compliance with the BTWC and to encourage other States Parties to conduct similar exercises.

If implementation is carried out in a transparent manner, it can contribute to enhancing confidence in States Parties' compliance with and commitment to the BTWC. The possibility of conducting on-site visits represents just one of various forms in which national implementation of the BTWC can be demonstrated through peer reviews. A central benefit of on-site visits is that they serve as a connection between the theoretical discourse on implementation and concrete every-day procedures on BTWC-relevant sites.

To the Permanent Representatives 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

During the visit, the conformity of the facility with the rules of the BTWC will be reviewed by an international team of bio-experts conducting the exercise and additional participants from outside the life sciences monitoring the visit. For reasons of capacity, participation will be limited to ten bio-experts and ten monitoring participants. A maximum of four bio-experts will be able to access the BSL-3 area. The team will record its findings in a concluding summary, open to all BTWC parties.

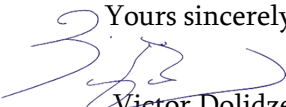
We would kindly ask you to ascertain that your experts and other participants have the necessary professional expertise and physical fitness to conduct and/or observe planned visit. We particularly welcome experts from the fields of biology and virology, as well as infectious disease specialists. All participants must be willing to comply with the appropriate safety regulations for entering biological laboratories. To enter the BSL-3 laboratory experts will have to present a certificate confirming their prior experience working in a BSL-3 laboratory and fulfil the specific health requirements.

The organization and implementation of the exercise will be supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, which will provide financial support for travel and accommodation for a limited number of participants upon request, thus ensuring a non-discriminatory approach.

**Please send your application (attached form and short professional CV) to Ms. Natia Sekhniashvili – Counsellor at the Division for New Threats and Arms Control, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, e-mail: [n.sekhniashvili@mfa.gov.ge](mailto:n.sekhniashvili@mfa.gov.ge), and Ms. Lela Bakanidze, e-mail: [lbakanidze@yahoo.com](mailto:lbakanidze@yahoo.com), by Friday 17 August 2018 as a Note Verbale via your embassy or Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicating which expert(s) would represent your country.**

All applicants will be informed as to whether their application was successful by 24 August 2018. A detailed agenda and all relevant documents will be circulated after 24 August 2018.

For further information, please contact Natia Sekhniashvili – Counsellor at the Division for New Threats and Arms Control, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, e-mail: [n.sekhniashvili@mfa.gov.ge](mailto:n.sekhniashvili@mfa.gov.ge), and Lela Bakanidze, e-mail: [lbakanidze@yahoo.com](mailto:lbakanidze@yahoo.com).

Yours sincerely,  
  
Victor Dolidze

Permanent Representative of Georgia  
to the UN Office and Other  
International Organizations in Geneva

## APPLICATION FORM

### Compliance Visit Exercise to the NCDC Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research 14 – 15 November 2018 Tbilisi, Georgia

<b>Personal Information</b>	Title	....		
	First Name	....	Initials	....
	Last Name	....		
	Citizenship	....		
	Year of Birth	Please select a date.	Gender (M/F)	....
<b>Professional Information</b>	Job Title	....		
	Institution	Klicken Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.		
	Office Address	....		
	City	....	Postcode	....
	Country	....		
	Tel	....	Fax	....
	Mobile	....		
	Email	....	Website	....
<b>Professional Background</b>	<i>Please <u>briefly</u> describe your field of profession background</i>			
	....			
<b>Reception</b>	<i>I will participate in the welcome dinner (14 November)</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Individual Requirements</b>	<i>If you have any particular requirements (e.g. access, medical, diet), please give details</i>			
	....			

Please complete and return to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia by no later than Friday 17 August 2018 via your Embassy or Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For further information, please contact: Ms. Natia Sekhniashvili (n.sekhniashvili@mfa.gov.ge), or Ms. Lela Bakanidze (lbakanidze@yahoo.com).