



**REPRESENTACIÓN PERMANENTE DE ESPAÑA
ANTE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INTERNACIONALES
GINEBRA**

Ginebra, 3 de agosto de 2018

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Following the joint letter of MX Chairs dated 14 June 2018, I write in my capacity as Chair of the 2018 BWC Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation (MX3), to be held on August 13th, hoping to achieve constructive and fruitful discussions.

Since this is a one-day meeting with a very long and dense agenda, I kindly recommend only short and focused technical interventions. Delegations are encouraged to send working papers and written statements or declarations to save time and allow for a dynamic debate, including as many participants as possible.

Please find attached a document with relevant information on the program of work and the agenda, including working papers. Considering that my proposal to focus on selected agenda items to achieve more in-depth discussions did not meet consensus during informal consultations with delegations, MX3 will address the five agenda items mandated by MSP of 2107 in principle with the same allocation of time. A rolling agenda will be set, moving on to the next item as soon as the previous one is exhausted.

My intention is to give priority in the list of speakers to delegations that have introduced working papers, inviting then all participants to an open debate, without prejudice to the right of everyone to raise any other relevant matter.

Five hours will then be devoted to the agenda items. The last part of the meeting will allow delegations to make final remarks, observations and explanations, including their positions on possible outcomes and recommendations, as mandated by MSP of December 2017. For the sake of efficiency and clarity, and in view of the very limited time available, making concise interventions will be instrumental.

I thank you in advance for your constructive engagement to achieve a successful MX3 meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Julio Herraiz

Biological Weapons Convention

Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation (MX3)¹

13 August 2018

Day	Session
Mon, 13 Aug	<p>AM (10:00 – 13:00)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by the Chair, Ambassador Julio Herraiz of Spain 2. <u>Adoption of the agenda</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/1 3. <u>Adoption of the rules of procedure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/CONF.VIII/2 4. <u>Measures related to Article IV of the Convention</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/2 – Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit, paras. 23-25 • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.1 - El transporte de agentes biológicos debe protegerse con medidas de Biocustodia – Submitted by Spain • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.4 - Strengthening national implementation: The UK Biological Security Strategy 2018 – Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.5 - Séminaire sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur l'Interdiction des Armes Biologiques et à Toxines – Submitted by Morocco 5. <u>Confidence Building Measures (CBM) submissions in terms of quantity and quality</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/2 – Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit, paras. 32-37 • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.3 - Improving the Quality of CBM Information: A Review of Recent Proposals and Some Suggestions for Future Work - Submitted by the United States of America 6. <u>Various ways to promote transparency and confidence building under the Convention</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.2 - Building Confidence in Compliance: Peer Review Transparency Exercise at the Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research (CPHR) of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) in Tbilisi, Georgia - Submitted by Georgia, co-sponsored by Germany <p>PM (15:00 – 18:00)</p>

¹ This is an indicative listing and will be updated as additional working papers are submitted. States Parties can of course request to take the floor under any agenda item. Those wishing to do so, particularly if intending to deliver a technical presentation, should contact the ISU as soon as possible so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. <u>Role of international cooperation and assistance under Article X, in support of strengthening the implementation of the Convention</u>8. <u>Issues related to Article III, including effective measures of export control, in full conformity with all Articles of the Convention, including Article X</u>9. <u>Adoption of the factual report reflecting the deliberations of the Meeting, including possible outcomes</u>10. <u>Closing of the Meeting</u> |
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