
To the Permanent Representatives
To the United Nations Office at Geneva

6 June 2016

**Introductory Workshop on the Eighth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons
Convention
on Monday, 27 June 2016 in Geneva**

Excellency,

We are writing to inform you about an upcoming introductory workshop on the Eighth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which will take place on Monday 27 June 2016 in Geneva. The workshop is organized in close cooperation with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI).

The one-day workshop is designed for newly arrived delegates from Permanent Missions who deal with BWC matters, or delegates who have had little previous involvement in the BWC. The workshop's main objective is to contribute towards effective preparations for the Eighth Review Conference of the BWC which will take place in November 2016 by helping participants to become more familiar with the Review Conference's processes, structures, and the main issues for discussion in order to maximise their participation.

The workshop is designed as an interactive learning event on BWC matters. As such, international experts and staff of the BWC Implementation Support Unit will provide information on various aspects such as the history of the BWC, important elements of Review Conference procedures and governance, as well as provide an overview of key issues facing this Review Conference.

The workshop will be held in English and is open for participation by all Permanent Missions in Geneva. It will take place at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Maison de la paix, Chemin Eugene Rigot 2D, CH-1211 Geneva 1. A draft programme of the workshop is attached.

The workshop is part of a series of three consecutive events. Another follow-up BWC workshop is planned for Monday, 19 September 2016, also at GCSP. On the following day, Tuesday 20 September, there will be the possibility to visit the Spiez Laboratory to learn more about the scientific and technological issues to be discussed at the Review Conference and to see a functioning biological laboratory.

We would be most grateful if you could **respond to this invitation no later than 20 June** and register by e-mail at s.ingelaere@gcsp.ch

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



Daniel Feakes
Chief
BWC Implementation Support Unit
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

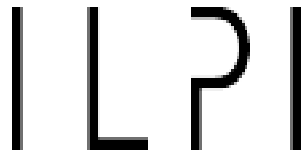


Camilla Waszink
Director
Arms and Disarmament Programme,
International Law and Policy Institute



Marc Finaud
Senior Programme Advisor
Emerging Security Challenges Programme
Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Encl.: Provisional workshop programme



INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

MONDAY 27 June 2016

Provisional Programme

- 10:00 Welcome
Marc Finaud, Senior Programme Advisor, Emerging Security Challenges Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
Daniel Feakes, Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU)
Camilla Waszink, Director, Arms and Disarmament Programme, International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI)
- 10:05 Brief introduction of participants (names, functions and what you hope to learn)
- 10:15 Panel/segment 1: The historical roots of biological weapons
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:45 Panel/segment 2: Current challenges and responses
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 Panel/segment 3: What does it mean to implement the BWC?
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:45 Panel/segment 4: Strategies for taking the BWC forward
- 17:00 Feedback Session and Wrap-Up
- 17:15 Workshop Closure, followed by drinks