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Date 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020

Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as Chairperson of the Meeting of States Parties of the Biological Weapons Convention and in reference to my recent letter dated 18 November 2020.

In my letter, I proposed to postpone the upcoming Meetings of Experts to a date not earlier than April 2021 unless any objections were received by 17:00 on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

As no such objections were received by the deadline, **I would hereby like to inform you that the Meetings of Experts are therefore postponed and will not take place from 1 to 10 December 2020.** The Implementation Support Unit will notify the appropriate services within the United Nations Office at Geneva so that no meeting costs are incurred.

As also mentioned in my letter, the Vice-Chairpersons, the Chairpersons of the Meetings of Experts and I will now consult with States Parties on the scheduling of and preparations for BWC meetings in 2021, taking into account the rules of procedure, previous decisions by States Parties, the calendar of disarmament meetings in 2021 and the limitations imposed by the Strategic Heritage Plan. We will then put a proposal for the meetings in 2021 to States Parties following these consultations before the end of this year.

I would once again like to express my appreciation to States Parties for their flexibility and understanding as we try to navigate through the very challenging situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. ~~Dr.~~ Cleopa K. Mailu, EGH

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Chairperson of the 2020 BWC Meeting of States Parties