

**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**

Geneva, 4-7 December 2018

Secretariat:  
BWC Implementation Support Unit  
United Nations Office for Disarmament  
Affairs (Geneva Branch)  
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

tel: +41 (0)22 917 2230  
fax: +41 (0)22 917 0483  
e-mail: [bw@un.org](mailto:bw@un.org)  
web: <http://www.unog.ch/bwc>

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

31 July 2018

**2018 BWC MEETING OF EXPERTS ON COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE,  
WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND  
ASSISTANCE UNDER ARTICLE X**

Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the 2018 BWC Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X (MX1).

The provisional agenda of MX1, available in all official languages as [BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/1](#), will discuss in an open-ended manner and promote common understanding and effective action on the seven topics identified for MX1 by States Parties at the MSP in December 2017 in its final report ([BWC/MSP/2017/6](#)).

I am encouraged by States Parties' support for the balanced and practical approach to conducting MX1 to allow for in-depth discussions to help better focus on possible measures of effective action. In this regard, I appreciate States Parties submissions of working papers and look forward to receiving additional papers in the coming days. I hope States Parties that have submitted working papers for MX1 will come prepared to introduce them and to engage in an interactive discussion on their proposals.

Attached to this letter is a document which combines the purposes of a programme of work and an annotated agenda. I hope that you find this useful while making your preparations for MX1. I suggest that the Meeting observe a rolling agenda that will allow us to pass on to the next item as soon as discussions on the previous one are exhausted.

With States Parties' engagement, MX1 will hopefully provide a fresh start to the three-year ISP process, and will establish a good basis for further considering concrete outcomes for the next two years leading towards the Ninth Review Conference.

Following practice from previous Meetings of Experts, I intend to invite some "Guests of the Meeting" to help us in our consideration of the topics on the provisional agenda. I currently intend to invite the following:

- Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Stimson Center
- The World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in Developing Countries (TWAS)

In addition, I will call on international organizations participating in MX1 to provide input to our discussions where appropriate.

I would also encourage States Parties to study the background paper prepared by the ISU for MX1 which is available as [BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/2](#) and which includes useful compilations of reference materials in its annexes.

I invite States Parties to consider the MX1, during which we will highlight the implementation of Article X, as a platform to meet the challenge of the UN Secretary-General's new disarmament agenda as presented in the paper "Securing Our Common Future", which was issued in May this year. This agenda gives strong direction to our collective work to better institutionalize the BWC regime, to strongly link disarmament with the Sustainable Development Goals, and achieve more synergistic partnerships.

I look forward to facilitating an engaging and constructive meeting of experts, and take this opportunity to convey assurances of my highest regard.



Ambassador Maria Teresa Almojuela

Chair of the 2018 BWC Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X

Attachment: Annotated programme of work for the BWC Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X

## Biological Weapons Convention

### Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance Under Article X (MX1)<sup>1</sup>

7-8 August 2018

| Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Session                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue, 07 Aug                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | AM (10:00 – 13:00)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Opening of the Meeting</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remarks by the Chair, Ambassador Maria Teresa Almojuela</li></ul></li><li><u>Adoption of the agenda</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/1</a></li></ul></li><li><u>Adoption of the rules of procedure</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">BWC/CONF.VIII/2</a></li></ul></li><li><u>Consideration of the reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/2</a> – Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit, paras. 12-14</li><li><a href="#">BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.1</a> - Australia's Article X report for 2016 and 2017 – Submitted by Australia</li></ul></li><li><u>Review of the report by the ISU on the operation of the assistance and cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference and consideration of its further operationalization, including measures to further strengthen the operation of the database, including in the light of BWC/MSP/2017/4</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/2</a>, Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit, paras 15-26</li><li>Technical briefing by the 1540 Group of Experts</li></ul></li></ol> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | PM (15:00 – 18:00)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Identification of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible ways and means of overcoming these</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Technical briefing by the OPCW [TBC]</li></ul></li><li><u>Development of guidelines and procedures for mobilizing resources, including financial resources on a voluntary basis to address gaps and needs</u></li></ol> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.3</a> - Report on BWC Implementation Workshop, Rabat, Morocco, 10-11 May 2018 - Submitted by the United States of America</li> <li>• Technical briefing by CEPI [TBC]</li> </ul> <p>8. <u>Facilitation of education, training, exchange and twinning programs and other means of developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical briefing by ICGEB [TBC]</li> <li>• Technical briefing by TWAS [TBC]</li> </ul>                                                                                                                              |
| Wed, 08 Aug | AM (10:00 – 13:00)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|             | <p>9. <u>Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.2 – Promotion of capacity-building: Sustainable laboratories for high consequence pathogens – Submitted by Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</li> <li>• <a href="#">BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.4</a> - Outcome of the International Workshop on Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by Norway</li> <li>• Technical briefing by the OIE</li> </ul> |
|             | PM (15:00 – 18:00)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|             | <p>10. <u>Collaboration with international organizations and networks related to combating infectious diseases at all levels, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote implementation of all articles of the Convention</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical briefing by the WHO [TBC]</li> </ul> <p>11. <u>Adoption of the factual report reflecting the deliberations of the Meeting, including possible outcomes</u></p> <p>12. <u>Closing of the Meeting</u></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |