

## **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) Assessed Contributions**

The Permanent Representatives  
of the States Parties to the BTWC  
Geneva

21 March 2017

Excellency,

As the Depositaries of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), we are writing concerning this year's assessed financial contributions to the Convention.

As you will recall, at the Eighth Review Conference in November 2016, States Parties agreed to "renew the mandate of the Implementation Support Unit agreed to at the Seventh Review Conference, *mutatis mutandis*, for the period from 2017 to 2021." The Review Conference also agreed that States Parties would hold annual meetings with the first taking place for up to five days from 4 to 8 December 2017.

With regard to the financing of the meetings and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the Review Conference requested States Parties to "proceed with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment notices have been received from the United Nations to help ensure that the meetings can be held as scheduled." Notices of assessed contributions were sent to States Parties by the Finance Resources Management Services of the United National Office at Geneva on 13 February 2017.

With respect to the Meeting of States Parties scheduled for December 2017, States Parties are kindly reminded that sufficient funds must be received in advance in order for the meeting to be organized as scheduled. The financial situation will be monitored regularly and a decision will need to be made three months prior to the meeting as to whether or not it can be held as planned.

The situation with regard to the ISU is of immediate concern. The 2017 assessed contributions need to be received as soon as possible in order to ensure the continuity of the staff of the ISU. As indicated in the cover note verbale accompanying the notices of assessed contributions, lack of sufficient funds would jeopardize the ability to maintain the current level of human resources of the ISU.

We have been informed that the funding currently available will only allow the ISU staff to have their contracts extended until end of April 2017. We, therefore, urge all States Parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions as soon as possible and to settle their arrears without delay. Without the prompt resolution of this issue, the structures and decisions agreed upon just a few months ago at the Eighth Review Conference will be in serious jeopardy.

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



Alexey Borodavkin, Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to  
the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva



Dr. Matthew Rowland, Ambassador  
UK Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament



Robert A. Wood, Ambassador  
US Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament  
and Special Representative for Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Issues