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To the Permanent Representatives 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

15 January 2016

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Excellency,

In accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), I am writing to remind you formally that the deadline for the submission of the annual Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) is approaching. I am pleased to inform you that 2015 saw the highest ever number of CBMs submitted with a total of 72 reports received.

CBMs are to be submitted to the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) no later than 15 April each year. The information provided should cover the previous calendar year. Your CBM covering calendar year 2015 should therefore be submitted to the ISU **no later than 15 April 2016**. CBMs can be submitted in hard copy to the address below, or in electronic format to the e-mail address above. CBMs are posted on the restricted area of the BWC website. It is also possible for CBMs to also be posted on the public BWC website. States Parties wishing to do so are requested to inform the ISU when submitted their CBM.

More information on the CBMs, including the necessary forms, can be found at <http://www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms>. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the revised *Guide to Participating in the Confidence-Building Measures*, prepared by the ISU with the support of the European Union, which is available in all official languages at the same address.

The ISU is at your disposal to answer any enquiries about the CBMs, and to help obtain any assistance your government might require for preparing the CBMs. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any aspect of the CBM process. In addition, Canada, Cuba, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have offered assistance in the compilation and submission of CBMs. Details of these offers are listed in the Assistance and Cooperation Database at <http://www.unog.ch/bwc/database>.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Feakes', written over a light grey background.

Daniel Feakes
Chief, Implementation Support Unit