

# **Eighth Review Conference 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, 7-25 November 2016

Agenda item 16

Preparation and adoption of the final document(s)

## **Final Document of the Eighth Review Conference<sup>1</sup>**

### **I. Organization and work of the Conference**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. The Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference 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 (BWC/CONF.VII/7), in paragraph 66 of the Final Declaration, contained the following decision:

“The Conference decides that the Eighth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2016 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, *inter alia*:

(i) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, taking into account the relevant decision of this Conference regarding the review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention;

(ii) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention;

(iii) progress of the implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Seventh Review Conference, taking into account, as appropriate, decisions and recommendations reached at previous review conferences.”

2. By resolution 70/74, adopted without a vote on 11 December 2015, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, noted the proposal to hold meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Eighth Review Conference in April and August 2016 and to hold the Eighth Review Conference in Geneva in November 2016 and requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Eighth Review Conference and the preparations for it.

3. The Preparatory Committee was held at Geneva from 26 to 27 April 2016 and resumed its work from 8 to 12 August 2016. The following 114 States Parties to the Convention participated in the Preparatory Committee: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei

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<sup>1</sup> This is an advance version of the final report of the Review Conference, issued on 29 November 2016 to facilitate States Parties' work. The official version of the report of the Review Conference, translated into all official languages, will be posted as soon as it is available. Annex II, the list of documents, will be included in the final version.

Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. At its first meeting, on 26 April 2016, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation Ambassador György Molnár (Hungary) as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. At the same meeting, it also unanimously elected Ambassador Michael Biontino (Germany) and Ambassador Boudjemâa Delmi (Algeria) as Vice-Chairmen of the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee authorized the Bureau to handle technical and other matters in the period before the Review Conference was convened.

5. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Mary Soliman, Acting Director of the Geneva Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Hermann Alex Lampalzer, Deputy Chief, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Norma Alicia Roulin-Hernandez, Documents Management Assistant, Ms. María José Orellana Alfaro, Documents Management Assistant, Ms. Nadiya Dzyubynska, Staff Assistant, Ms. Alexandra Poullos, Political Affairs Intern and Ms. Camilla Tett, Political Affairs Intern, served in the Secretariat.

6. The Preparatory Committee decided to take its decisions by consensus.

7. The Preparatory Committee decided to use Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages.

8. The Preparatory Committee, in accordance with draft rule 44, paragraph 2, noted the participation, without the right to take part in the adoption of decisions, of two States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it, Haiti and Somalia.

9. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of written applications and in accordance with the draft rule 44, paragraph 2, decided to invite the representative of three States neither party nor signatory to the Convention, Djibouti, Guinea and Israel, to participate as observers.

10. In the course of its session, the Preparatory Committee considered the following questions relating to the organization of the Review Conference:

- (a) Date and duration;
- (b) Provisional agenda;
- (c) Draft rules of procedure;
- (d) Background documentation;
- (e) Publicity;
- (f) Final document(s);
- (g) Appointment of a provisional Secretary-General; and

(h) Financial arrangements for the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.

11. At its meeting, on 27 April 2016, the Preparatory Committee adopted its interim report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/2. At its meeting on 12 August 2016, the Preparatory Committee adopted its final report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/9.

12. Pursuant to the request of the Preparatory Committee, the following background documents were prepared by the Implementation Support Unit and issued as pre-session documents for the Conference:

(a) A background information document on the history and operation of the confidence-building measures agreed at the Second Review Conference and revised at the Third and Seventh Review Conferences. The document should include data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the measures since the last Review Conference;

(b) A background information document on the financial implications of proposals for follow-on action after the Eighth Review Conference;

(c) A background information document showing the additional understandings and agreements reached by previous Review Conferences relating to each article of the Convention, extracted from the respective Final Declarations of these conferences;

(d) A background information document showing the common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2012 to 2015;

(e) A background information document on the status of universalization of the Convention;

(f) A background information document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties;

(g) A background information document on the implementation of Article VII, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties; and

(h) A background information document on the implementation of Article X, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties, including information submitted pursuant to paragraph 61 of the Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference.

## **B. Organization of the Conference**

13. In accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 7 to 25 November 2016.

14. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kim Won-soo, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Conference.

15. At its first meeting, on 7 November 2016, the Conference elected by acclamation Ambassador György Molnár (Hungary) as President.

16. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, addressed the Conference via a video message.

17. The Conference adopted its agenda as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VIII/1), as orally amended. The agenda as adopted is attached as Annex I to this Final Document.

18. The Conference took note with appreciation of the final report of the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/9).

19. The Conference adopted its Rules of Procedure as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VIII/2). The Rules of Procedure provided, *inter alia*, for:

(a) a General Committee, chaired by the President of the Conference, and composed of the President, the 20 Vice-Presidents, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Drafting Committee, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Credentials Committee, the three Regional Group Coordinators and the Depositories (see paragraph 24 of the report of the Preparatory Committee);

(b) a Committee of the Whole;

(c) a Drafting Committee; and

(d) a Credentials Committee composed of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected by the Conference, and five other members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President.

20. The Conference elected by acclamation 20 Vice-Presidents from the following States Parties: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. It also elected by acclamation the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee, as follows:

*Committee of the Whole*

Chairman: Ambassador Michael Biontino (Germany)

Vice-Chair: Ambassador Hernán Estrada Roman (Nicaragua)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Arsen Omarov (Kazakhstan)

*Drafting Committee*

Chairman: Ambassador Boudjemâa Delmi (Algeria)

Vice-Chair: Ambassador Fedor Rosocha (Slovakia)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Berna Kasnakli (Turkey)

*Credentials Committee*

Chairman: Ambassador Tudor Ulianoschi (Republic of Moldova)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Titta Maja (Finland)

The Conference also appointed the following five States Parties as members of the Credentials Committee: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Panama and Peru.

21. The Conference confirmed the nomination of Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, as Secretary-General of the Conference. The nomination had been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations following an invitation by the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Hermann Alex Lampalzer, Deputy Chief, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. María José Orellana Alfaro, Documents Management Assistant, Ms. Nadiya Dzyubynska, Staff Assistant, Ms. Isabelle Porcu-Cartier, Staff Assistant, Ms. Maylis David, Political Affairs Intern, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Clarisse Bertherat, Political Affairs Intern, Implementation Support Unit and Ms. Ekaterina Konovalova, Political Affairs Intern, Implementation Support Unit, all served in the Secretariat.

### **C. Participation at the Conference**

22. The following 124 States Parties to the Convention participated in the Conference: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

23. In addition, four States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Conference without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure: Haiti; Somalia; Syrian Arab Republic; and the United Republic of Tanzania.

24. Two States, Eritrea and Israel, neither parties nor signatories to the Convention, were granted Observer status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a) of the Rules of Procedure.

25. The United Nations, including the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 Group of Experts attended the Conference in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure.

26. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the European Union (EU), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), the League of Arab States (LAS), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) were granted Observer Agency status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure.

27. Thirty-three non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Conference under rule 44, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure.

### **D. Work of the Conference**

28. The Conference held 24 plenary meetings between 7 and 25 November 2016.

29. At its first plenary meeting, on 7 November, the Conference adopted its indicative programme of work, as set out in BWC/CONF.VIII/3.

30. The Conference held a general debate, in which the following States Parties made statements: Algeria; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Belarus; Belarus (on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization); Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Canada; Canada (on behalf of Japan,

Australia, Canada, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Norway); Chile; China; Colombia; Cote d'Ivoire; Cuba; Ecuador; Estonia; Ethiopia; France; Georgia (on behalf of Georgia and Germany); Germany; Ghana; Guatemala; Hungary; Holy See; Iceland (on behalf of the Nordic States); India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Japan (on behalf of the member countries of the G7 Global Partnership); Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic (on behalf of ASEAN); Latvia; Liberia; Libya; Malaysia; Mali; Mexico; Montenegro; Morocco; Myanmar; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Pakistan; Panama; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Senegal; Serbia; Slovakia; South Africa; Spain; Spain (on behalf of the Chair of the 1540 Committee); Sweden; Switzerland; Thailand; Turkey; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Group); Zambia; Zimbabwe. Statements were also made by the European Union the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

31. The Committee of the Whole held 13 meetings between 9 and 24 November, during which it reviewed the provisions of the Convention, article by article. The Committee submitted its report BWC/CONF.VIII/COW/CRP.1/Rev.1 to the Conference at the 23<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting, on 25 November. The Conference took note of the report to be issued as document BWC/CONF.VIII/COW/1.

32. During the Conference, the President conducted a series of informal consultations, and was assisted in his work by Facilitators in the following areas:

Solemn Declaration: Ambassador Boudjemaa Delmi (Algeria)

Assistance and cooperation: Mr. Zahid Rastam (Malaysia)

Science and technology: Mr. Laurent Masméjean (Switzerland)

Implementation issues: Ambassador Michael Biontino (Germany)

Article III: Ambassador Hernán Estrada Roman (Nicaragua)

Article VII: Ambassador Alice Guitton (France)

Future intersessional work programme and the ISU: Ambassador Tehmina Janjua (Pakistan) and Mr. Ian McConville (Australia)

33. The Drafting Committee held no formal meetings.

34. The Credentials Committee held three meetings. At its third and final meeting on 23 November, the Credentials Committee adopted its report as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/CC/CRP.1 to be issued as document BWC/CONF.VIII/CC/1. The Conference took note of the report.

## **E. Documentation**

35. A list of documents of the Conference is contained in Annex II of this Final Document. All documents on this list are available on the Implementation Support Unit website at <http://www.unog.ch/bwc> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

## **F. Conclusion of the Conference**

36. At its 24<sup>th</sup> and final plenary meeting, on 25 November, the Conference decided that the 2017 Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from 4 to 8 December 2017.

37. At the same meeting the Conference adopted by consensus its Final Document, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/CRP.2, as orally amended, comprising three parts and two annexes, as follows:

Part I: Organization and work of the Conference

Part II: Final Declaration

Part III: Decisions and recommendations

Annex I: Agenda of the Conference

Annex II: List of documents of the Conference

38. During the adoption of the report, only English was used as a working language. Interpretation in the other official languages of the United Nations was not provided.

ADVANCE VERSION

## II. Final declaration

**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, which met in Geneva from 7 to 25 November 2016 to review the operation of the Convention, solemnly declare:**

(i) Their conviction that the Convention is essential for international peace and security;

(ii) Their determination also to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and their conviction that the prohibitions of the Convention will facilitate the achievement of this goal;

(iii) Their reaffirmation of their understanding that the Convention forms a composite whole, and as such requires the Convention to be implemented in a comprehensive manner as well as of their firm commitment to the purposes of the Preamble and all the provisions of the Convention;

(iv) Their determination to fully comply with all their obligations undertaken pursuant to the Convention and their recognition that States Parties not in compliance with their Convention obligations pose fundamental challenges to the Convention's viability, as would the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons by anyone at any time;

(v) Their continued determination, for the sake of humankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, and their conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind. The Conference affirms the determination of States Parties to condemn any use of biological agents or toxins other than for peaceful purposes by anyone at any time.

(vi) Their reaffirmation that under any circumstances the use, development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons is effectively prohibited under Article I of the Convention;

(vii) Their commitment to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes;

Their reaffirmation that the Convention shall be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties to the Convention or international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities.

(viii) Their conviction that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and whatever its motivation, is abhorrent and unacceptable to the international community, their grave concerns at the threat posed by bioterrorism and determination that terrorists must be prevented from developing, producing, stockpiling, or otherwise acquiring or retaining, and using under any circumstances, biological agents and toxins, equipment, or means of delivery of agents or toxins for non-peaceful purposes; their determination to redouble efforts to address this growing threat, and their recognition of the contribution of the full and effective implementation of the BWC and all relevant United Nations resolutions, such as United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/288, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540;

(ix) Their welcome to the fifteen states that have deposited their instruments of ratification, accession or succession since the Seventh Review Conference, their

reiteration that the effective contribution of the Convention to international peace and security will be enhanced through universal adherence to the Convention, and their call on signatories to ratify and other States, not party, to accede to the Convention without further delay;

(x) Their recognition that achieving the objectives of the Convention will be more effectively realized through greater public awareness of its contribution, and through collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, in keeping within their respective mandates, and their commitment to promote this;

(xi) Their recognition of their consideration of the issues identified in reviewing the operation of the Convention as provided for in Article XII.

## **A. Article I**

1. The Conference reaffirms the importance of Article I, as it defines the scope of the Convention. The Conference declares that the Convention is comprehensive in its scope and that all naturally or artificially created or altered microbial and other biological agents and toxins, as well as their components, regardless of their origin and method of production and whether they affect humans, animals or plants, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, are unequivocally covered by Article I.

2. The Conference reaffirms that Article I applies to all scientific and technological developments in the life sciences and in other fields of science relevant to the Convention.

3. The Conference reaffirms that the use by the States Parties, in any way and under any circumstances of microbial or other biological agents or toxins, that is not consistent with prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, is effectively a violation of Article I. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking in Article I never in any circumstances to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain weapons, equipment, or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict in order to exclude completely and forever the possibility of their use. The Conference affirms the determination of States Parties to condemn any use of biological agents or toxins other than for peaceful purposes, by anyone at any time.

4. The Conference notes that experimentation involving open air release of pathogens or toxins harmful to humans, animals and plants that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes is a violation of Article I.

## **B. Article II**

5. The Conference reaffirms for any state ratifying or acceding to the Convention, the destruction or diversion to peaceful purposes specified in Article II would be completed upon accession to, or upon ratification of, the Convention.

6. The Conference emphasises that states must take all necessary safety and security measures to protect human populations and the environment, including animals and plants, when carrying out such destruction and/or diversion. The Conference also stresses that these States Parties should provide appropriate information to all States Parties via the exchange of information (confidence-building measures form F).

7. The Conference welcomes statements made by States Parties, and newly acceding and ratifying States Parties, that they do not possess agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery as prohibited by Article I of the Convention.

### **C. Article III**

8. The Conference reaffirms that Article III is sufficiently comprehensive to cover any recipient whatsoever at the international, national or sub-national levels.

9. The Conference calls for appropriate measures, including effective national export controls, by all States Parties to implement this Article, in order to ensure that direct and indirect transfers relevant to the Convention, to any recipient whatsoever, are authorized only when the intended use is for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

10. The Conference reiterates that States Parties should not use the provisions of this Article to impose restrictions and/or limitations on transfers for purposes consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials under Article X.

### **D. Article IV**

11. The Conference reaffirms the commitment of States Parties to take the necessary national measures under this Article. The Conference also reaffirms that the enactment and implementation of necessary national measures under this Article, in accordance with their constitutional processes, would strengthen the effectiveness of the Convention. In this context, the Conference calls upon States Parties to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures, including penal legislation, designed to:

(a) enhance domestic implementation of the Convention and ensure the prohibition and prevention of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery as specified in Article I of the Convention;

(b) apply within their territory, under their jurisdiction or under their control anywhere and apply, if constitutionally possible and in conformity with international law, to actions taken anywhere by natural or legal persons possessing their nationality;

(c) ensure the safety and security of microbial or other biological agents or toxins in laboratories, facilities, and during transportation, to prevent unauthorized access to and removal of such agents or toxins.

12. The Conference welcomes those measures taken by States Parties in this regard, and reiterates its call to any State Party that has not yet taken any necessary measures, to do so without delay. The Conference encourages States Parties to provide appropriate information on any such measures they have taken, as well as any other useful information on their implementation to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

13. The Conference notes the value of national implementation measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the constitutional process of each State Party, to:

(a) implement voluntary management standards on biosafety and biosecurity;

(b) encourage the consideration of development of appropriate arrangements to promote awareness among relevant professionals in the private and public sectors and throughout relevant scientific and administrative activities and;

(c) promote amongst those working in the biological sciences awareness of the obligations of States Parties under the Convention, as well as relevant national legislation and guidelines;

(d) promote the development of training and education programmes for those granted access to biological agents and toxins relevant to the Convention and for those with the knowledge or capacity to modify such agents and toxins;

(e) encourage the promotion of a culture of responsibility amongst relevant national professionals and the voluntary development, adoption and promulgation of codes of conduct;

(f) strengthen methods and capacities for surveillance and detection of outbreaks of disease at the national, regional and international levels, noting that the International Health Regulations (2005) are important for building capacity to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease;

(g) prevent anyone from developing, producing, stockpiling, or otherwise acquiring or retaining, transporting or transferring and using under any circumstances, biological agents and toxins, equipment, or their means of delivery for non-peaceful purposes.

14. In this regard, the Conference welcomes assistance related to Article IV already provided and encourages those States Parties, in a position to do so, to provide assistance, upon request, to other States Parties.

15. The Conference further encourages States Parties, that have not yet done so, in accordance with the recommendation of the Sixth Review Conference, to designate a national focal point for coordinating national implementation of the Convention and communicating with other States Parties and relevant international organizations.

16. The Conference reaffirms that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons is effectively prohibited by the Convention.

17. The Conference recalls United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) that places obligations on all states and is consistent with the provisions of the Convention. The Conference notes that Resolution 1540 affirms support for the multilateral treaties whose aim is to eliminate or prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and the importance for all States Parties to these treaties to implement them fully in order to promote international stability. The Conference also notes that information provided to the United Nations by states in accordance with Resolution 1540 may provide a useful resource for States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under this Article.

## **E. Article V**

18. The Conference reaffirms that:

(a) this article provides an appropriate framework for States Parties to consult and cooperate with one another to resolve any problem and to make any request for clarification, which may have arisen in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the Convention;

(b) any State Party which identifies such a problem should, as a rule, use this framework to address and resolve it;

(c) States Parties should provide a specific, timely response to any compliance concern alleging a breach of their obligations under the Convention.

19. The Conference reaffirms that the consultation procedures agreed at the Second and Third Review Conferences remain valid to be used by States Parties for consultation and cooperation pursuant to this Article. The Conference reaffirms that such consultation and cooperation may also be undertaken bilaterally and multilaterally, or through other appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter.

20. The Conference takes note of initiatives from States Parties to promote confidence-building under the Convention.

21. The Conference stresses the need for all States Parties to deal effectively with compliance issues. In this connection, the States Parties agreed to provide a specific, timely response to any compliance concern alleging a breach of their obligations under the Convention. Such responses should be submitted in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the Second Review Conference and further developed by the Third Review Conference. The Conference reiterates its request that information on such efforts be provided to the Review Conferences.

22. The Conference emphasises the importance of the exchange of information among States Parties through the confidence-building measures (CBMs) agreed at the Second and Third Review Conferences. The Conference welcomes the exchange of information carried out under these measures and notes that this has contributed to enhancing transparency and building confidence.

23. The Conference recognises the urgent need to increase the number of States Parties participating in CBMs and calls upon all States Parties to participate annually. The Conference notes that since the Seventh Review Conference, there has only been a slight increase in the percentage of State Parties submitting their CBMs. The Conference emphasises the importance of increasing and continuing participation in the CBMs.

24. The Conference recognises the technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties in completing full and timely submissions. The Conference urges those States Parties, in a position to do so, to provide technical assistance and support, through training or workshops for instance, to those States Parties requesting it to assist them to complete their annual CBM submissions. The Conference notes the decision of the Seventh Review Conference to update the CBM forms.

25. The Conference notes the desirability of making the CBMs more user-friendly and stresses the need to ensure that they provide relevant and appropriate information to States Parties.

26. The Conference recalls that the Third Review Conference agreed, “that the exchange of information and data, using the revised forms, be sent to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs no later than 15 April on an annual basis”. The Conference reaffirms that the data submitted in the framework of the annual exchange of information should be provided to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and promptly made available electronically by it to all States Parties. The Conference recalls that information supplied by a State Party must not be further circulated or made available without the express permission of that State Party. The Conference notes the fact that certain States Parties made the information they provide publicly available.

## **F. Article VI**

27. The Conference notes that the provisions of this Article have not been invoked.

28. The Conference emphasizes the provision of Article VI that such a complaint should include all possible evidence confirming its validity. It stresses that, as in the case of the implementation of all the provisions and procedures set forth in the Convention, the procedures foreseen in Article VI should be implemented in good faith within the scope of the Convention.

29. The Conference invites the Security Council:

(a) to consider immediately any complaint lodged under this Article and to initiate any measures it considers necessary for the investigation of the complaint in accordance with the Charter;

(b) to request, if it deems necessary and in accordance with its Resolution 620 of 1988, the United Nations Secretary-General to investigate the allegation of use, using the technical guidelines and procedures contained in Annex I of United Nations Document A/44/561;

(c) to inform each State Party of the results of any investigation initiated under this Article and to consider promptly any appropriate further action which may be necessary.

30. The Conference reaffirms the agreement of States Parties to consult, at the request of any State Party, regarding allegations of use or threat of use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking of each State Party to cooperate in carrying out any investigations which the Security Council initiates.

31. The Conference notes that the procedure outlined in this Article is without prejudice to the prerogative of the States Parties to consider jointly cases of alleged non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and to make appropriate decisions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and applicable rules of international law.

## **G. Article VII**

32. The Conference notes with satisfaction that these provisions have not been invoked.

33. The Conference reaffirms that the international community should be prepared to face such situations well in advance and to dispatch emergency assistance in case of use of bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons, and also to provide assistance, including humanitarian and other assistance to the requesting State Party.

34. The Conference takes note of the tragic Ebola outbreak (2014/2015) in West Africa that has underlined the importance of rapid detection and prompt, effective, and coordinated response in addressing outbreaks of infectious diseases, and recognizes that these considerations would be relevant as well in the event of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, which may pose additional challenges.

35. The Conference considers that, should a request for assistance be made, it should be promptly considered and an appropriate response provided. In this context, in view of the humanitarian imperative, the Conference encourages States Parties in a position to do so to provide timely emergency assistance, if requested pending consideration of a decision by the Security Council.

36. The Conference recognises that States Parties bear the responsibility for providing assistance and coordinating with relevant organizations in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking made by each State Party to provide or support assistance in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to any State Party which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such State Party has been exposed to danger as a result of a violation of the Convention.

37. The Conference considers that in the event that this Article might be invoked, the United Nations could play a coordinating role in providing and delivering assistance under the BWC, with the help of States Parties, as well as the appropriate intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

38. The Conference recognizes that there are challenges to developing effective measures for the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant international organizations to respond to the use of a biological or toxin weapon. The Conference underlines the importance of the coordination of the provision of appropriate

assistance, including expertise, information, protection, detection, decontamination, prophylactic and medical and other equipment that could be required to assist the States Parties in the event that a State Party is exposed to danger as a result of a violation of the Convention. The Conference also notes the need for a procedure for assistance by which timely emergency assistance can be provided, including to better identify accessible information on the types of assistance that might be available in order to ensure prompt response and timely emergency and humanitarian assistance by States Parties, if requested in the event of use of biological weapons.

39. The Conference agrees that the United Nations and other international organizations could also play an important role in coordinating, mobilizing and delivering the required support and assistance. In this respect, the capacities and experiences of UN and relevant international organizations should be identified and used, within their mandates, when required and upon request of the concerned State Party.

40. The Conference notes that States Parties' national preparedness and capacities also contribute directly to international capabilities for response, investigation and mitigation of outbreaks of disease, including those due to alleged use of biological or toxin weapons.

41. The conference notes that these capacities can also contribute to enabling States Parties to more clearly identify assistance needs. The Conference recognizes capacity building at the national and international levels as the most immediate imperative for enhancing and strengthening the capacity of the States Parties to promptly and effectively detect and respond to the alleged use or threat of use of biological weapons.

42. While noting that States Parties' national preparedness contributes to international capabilities for response, investigation and mitigation of outbreaks of disease, the Conference stresses that this should not be imposed as precondition for either provision or receipt of assistance.

43. The Conference notes that there are differences among States Parties in terms of their level of development, national capabilities and resources, and that these differences may directly affect both national and international capacity to respond effectively to an alleged use of a biological or toxin weapon. The Conference encourages States Parties, in a position to do so, to assist other States Parties, upon request, to build relevant capacity.

44. The Conference notes the need for States Parties to work nationally, and jointly, as appropriate, to improve, in accordance with their respective circumstances, national laws and regulations, their own disease surveillance and detection capacities for identifying and confirming the cause of outbreaks and cooperating, upon request, to build the capacity of other States Parties. The Conference notes that the International Health Regulations (2005) are important for building capacity to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease; such aims are compatible with the objectives of the Convention.

45. On the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, States Parties recognize that in this regard health and security issues are interrelated at both the national and international levels. The Conference highlights the importance of pursuing initiatives in this area through effective cooperation and sustainable partnerships. The Conference notes the importance of ensuring that efforts undertaken are effective irrespective of whether a disease outbreak is naturally occurring or deliberately caused, and cover diseases and toxins that could harm humans, animals, plants or the environment. The Conference also recognizes that capabilities to detect, quickly and effectively respond to, and recover from, the alleged use of a biological or toxin weapon need to be in place before they are required.

46. The Conference welcomes the discussions that have taken place during the intersessional process and stresses the necessity to build on these discussions throughout the next intersessional process in order to operationalize further the provisions of Article VII.

47. The Conference supports the establishment of a database open to all States Parties to facilitate assistance under the framework of Article VII. The purpose of this database could be one way to help implement Article VII of the BWC and allow matching specific offers and requests for assistance.

## **H. Article VIII**

48. The Conference calls upon all States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to fulfil their obligations assumed under that Protocol and urges all states not yet party to the Protocol to ratify or accede to it without further delay.

49. The Conference acknowledges that the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, and the Convention complement each other. The Conference reaffirms that nothing contained in the Convention shall be interpreted as in any way limiting or detracting from the obligations assumed by any state under the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

50. The Conference stresses the importance of the withdrawal of all reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol related to the Convention.

51. The Conference recalls the actions which States Parties have taken to withdraw their reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol related to the Convention, and calls upon those States Parties that continue to maintain pertinent reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw those reservations, and to notify the Depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol accordingly, without delay.

52. The Conference stresses that reservations concerning retaliation, through the use of any of the objects prohibited by the Convention, even conditional, are totally incompatible with the absolute and universal prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition and retention of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, with the aim to exclude completely and forever the possibility of their use.

53. The Conference calls upon those States Parties that continue to maintain such reservations relevant to the Convention to conduct national reviews to look into this matter with a view to expediting withdrawal of such reservations.

54. The Conference notes that the Secretary-General's investigation mechanism, set out in A/44/561 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/57, represents an international institutional mechanism for investigating cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference notes national initiatives to provide relevant training to experts that could support the Secretary-General's investigative mechanism.

## **I. Article IX**

55. The Conference reaffirms that this Article identifies the recognized objective of the effective prohibition of chemical weapons.

56. The Conference welcomes the fact that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction entered into force on 29 April 1997 and that 192 instruments of ratification or accession have now been deposited with the United Nations. The

Conference calls upon all states that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to that Convention without delay.

57. The Conference notes the increasing convergence of biology and chemistry and its possible challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Conventions.

## **J. Article X**

58. The Conference stresses the importance of implementation of this Article and recalls that States Parties have a legal obligation to facilitate and have the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

59. The Conference reaffirms the commitment to the full and comprehensive implementation of this Article by all States Parties. The Conference recognises that, while recent scientific and technological developments in the field of biotechnology would increase the potential for cooperation among States Parties and thereby strengthen the Convention, they could also increase the potential for the misuse of both science and technology. Therefore, the Conference urges all States Parties possessing advanced biotechnology to adopt positive measures to promote technology transfer and international cooperation on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, particularly with countries less advanced in this field, while promoting the basic objectives of the Convention, as well as ensuring that the promulgation of science and technology is fully consistent with the peaceful object and purpose of the Convention.

60. The Conference recognizes that the rapid pace of scientific and technological developments has created new opportunities for implementation of Article X of the Convention including, *inter alia*, developments of special relevance to disease surveillance, diagnosis and mitigation

61. The Conference reaffirms that nothing in the Convention prejudices the rights of States Parties to, individually or collectively, conduct research with, develop, produce, acquire, retain, transfer and use microbial and other biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.

62. The Conference recognises the important role of the private sector in the transfer of technology and information and the wide range of organizations within the United Nations system that are already engaged in international cooperation relevant to this Convention.

63. Recognizing the fundamental importance of enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, the Conference agrees on the value of working together to promote capacity building in the fields of vaccine and drug production, disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases as well as biological risk management. The Conference affirms that building such capacity would directly support the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

64. The Conference:

(a) encourages the States Parties to continue strengthening existing international organizations and networks working on infectious diseases, in particular those of the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC, within their respective mandates;

(b) notes that the role of these organizations is limited to the epidemiological and public/animal/plant health aspects of any disease outbreak, but recognises the added value of information exchange with them;

(c) encourages States Parties to improve communication on disease surveillance at all levels, including between States Parties and with the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC;

(d) calls upon States Parties to continue establishing and/or improving national and regional capabilities to survey, detect, diagnose and combat infectious diseases as well as other possible biological threats and integrate these efforts into national and/or regional emergency and disaster management plans;

(e) urges States Parties in a position to do so to continue supporting, directly as well as through international organizations, capacity-building in States Parties in need of assistance in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases and related research;

(f) calls upon States Parties to promote the development and production of vaccines and drugs to treat infectious disease through international cooperation and, as appropriate, public-private partnerships.

65. The Conference reaffirms the importance of developing effective national infrastructure for human, animal and plant disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment, as well as national biological risk management through international cooperation and assistance.

66. The Conference, while noting existing bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance, cooperation and partnerships, recognizes, however, that there still remain challenges to be overcome in developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes and that addressing such problems, challenges, needs and restrictions will help States Parties to build sufficient capacity for disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. Keeping in mind Article X, the Conference agrees on the value of targeting and mobilizing resources, including financial resources, to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information to help overcome challenges to disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. Recognizing that all States Parties have a role to play, the Conference stresses that those States Parties seeking to build their capacity should identify their specific needs and requirements and seek partnerships with others, and that those States Parties, in a position to do so, should provide assistance and support.

67. The Conference reaffirms that existing institutional ways and means of ensuring multilateral cooperation among all States Parties need to be developed further in order to promote international cooperation for peaceful uses in areas relevant to the Convention, including areas, such as medicine, public health, agriculture and the environment. Acknowledging the importance of drawing lessons from the Ebola disease outbreak in West Africa, including the need to address the lack of ready operational capacity, the Conference stresses the value of strengthening international cooperation in infectious disease prevention and associated capacity building.

68. The Conference calls for the use of the existing institutional means within the United Nations system and other international organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to promote the objectives of this Article. In this regard the Conference urges States Parties, the United Nations and its specialized agencies to take further specific measures within their competence for the promotion of the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and of international cooperation in this field.

69. The Conference also recognises that there should be efficient coordination mechanisms between the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations in order to facilitate scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

70. The Conference recognises the need to effectively implement national measures in order to further implementation of Article X. In this regard, the Conference urges States Parties to periodically review their national regulations governing international exchanges and transfers in order to ensure their consistency with the objectives and provisions of all the articles of the Convention.

71. The Conference encourages States Parties to provide at least biannually appropriate information on how they implement this Article to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and requests the Implementation Support Unit to collate such information for the information of States Parties. The Conference welcomes the information provided by a number of States Parties on the cooperative measures they have undertaken towards fulfilling their Article X obligations.

## **K. Article XI**

72. The Conference recalls that the Islamic Republic of Iran has formally presented at the Sixth Review Conference a proposal to amend Article I and the title of the Convention to include explicitly the prohibition of the use of biological weapons.

73. The Conference recalls the statement at the Sixth Review Conference by the Government of the Russian Federation as a Depository that it has notified all States Parties of the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran to amend the Convention.

74. The Conference recalls that all States Parties were encouraged in the Fourth Review Conference to convey their views to the depositaries on whether the Convention needs to be amended to make clear explicitly that the use of biological weapons is effectively prohibited. Of the 52 responses the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland received, 49 said they did not support the amendment and three were supportive.

75. The Conference reaffirms that the provisions of this Article should in principle be implemented in such a way as not to affect the universality of the Convention.

## **L. Article XII**

76. The Conference reaffirms that Review Conferences constitute an effective method of reviewing the operation of the Convention with a view to assuring that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the Convention are being realized. The Conference therefore decides that Review Conferences be held at least every five years.

77. The Conference decides that the Ninth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2021 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, *inter alia*:

(a) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention;

(b) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention;

(c) progress of the implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Eighth Review Conference, taking into account, as appropriate, decisions and recommendations reached at previous review conferences.

**M. Article XIII**

78. The Conference reaffirms that the Convention is of unlimited duration and applies at all times, and expresses its satisfaction that no State Party has exercised its right to withdraw from the Convention.

**N. Article XIV**

79. The Conference notes with satisfaction that fifteen states have deposited their instruments of ratification, accession or succession since the Seventh Review Conference.

80. The Conference underlines that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single state not party that could possess or acquire biological weapons.

81. The Conference reiterates the high importance of universalization, in particular by affirming the particular importance of the ratification of the Convention by signatory states and accession to the Convention by those which have not signed the Convention, without delay. States Parties agree to continue to promote universalization.

82. The Conference notes that the primary responsibility for promoting the universality of the Convention rests with the States Parties. The Conference urges States Parties to take action to persuade non-parties to accede to the Convention without delay, and particularly welcomes action by States Parties and regional initiatives to provide assistance and support that would lead to wider accession to the Convention.

83. The Conference welcomes regional initiatives that would lead to wider accession and adherence to the Convention.

84. The Conference urges those States Parties, in a position to do so, to offer assistance and support to States in their preparations for ratification or accession to the Convention.

**O. Article XV**

85. The Conference welcomes the decision of the Sixth Review Conference that as well as the five languages listed in this Article, Arabic shall be considered an official language for the purposes of any meetings of the States Parties and other formal communications concerning the operation of the Convention.

### **III. Decisions and recommendations**

#### **A. Outcome of the 2012-2015 intersessional programme**

1. In accordance with the decision taken by the Seventh Review Conference, Meetings of States Parties of one week duration were held each year, commencing in 2012, to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on the topics identified by the Conference. Each meeting of States Parties was prepared by a one-week meeting of experts. The Conference decided that “the following topics shall be Standing Agenda Items, which will be addressed at meetings of both the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in every year from 2012-2015”:

- (a) Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X;
- (b) Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention;
- (c) Strengthening national implementation.

2. The Conference further decided that “the following other items will be discussed during the intersessional programme in the years indicated”:

- (a) How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (2012 and 2013);
- (b) How to strengthen implementation of Article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States Parties (2014 and 2015).

3. The Conference notes that the meetings of States Parties and meetings of experts functioned as an important forum for exchange of national experiences and in-depth deliberations among States Parties. The meetings of States Parties engendered greater common understanding on steps to be taken to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

4. The Conference notes the contribution by the WHO, FAO, OIE and other relevant international organizations, as well as scientific and academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, to the meetings of States Parties and meetings of experts.

5. The Conference reiterates that common understandings were identified in the consensus outcome documents of the meetings of States Parties (BWC/MSP/2012/5, BWC/MSP/2013/5, BWC/MSP/2014/5 and BWC/MSP/2015/6), within their mandates.

#### **B. Intersessional programme 2017–2020**

1. At its final plenary meeting, on 25 November 2016, the Conference decided that States Parties will hold annual meetings. The first such meeting, to be held in Geneva in 2017 starting on 4 December 2017, and having a duration of up to five days, will seek to make progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an intersessional process.

2. Following the practice agreed at the Seventh Review Conference, the Conference agreed that the first year’s meeting will be chaired by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States, the second by a representative of the Eastern European Group, the third by a representative of the Western Group, and the fourth by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other

States. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups.

3. The Conference decides 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 annual meetings will consider the annual reports of the ISU and progress on universality.

4. The Conference decides to continue the cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference. The ISU, with inputs to be provided by States Parties, will seek to improve the database to ensure that it is more user-friendly and comprehensive, and ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of and requests for cooperation be provided by States Parties in the database.

5. In order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the annual meetings of States Parties, the Conference decides to renew the sponsorship programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties in a position to provide them. The sponsorship programme will continue to be administered by the Implementation Support Unit in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chairs of the Meeting of States Parties.

6. The Conference decides that the costs of the annual meetings of States Parties and of the ISU will be shared by all States Parties to the Convention, based on the United Nations scale of assessment pro-rated to take into account differences in membership between the Convention and the United Nations. In this respect, the Conference approves the estimated costs for the period 2017 to 2020, as contained in BWC/CONF.VIII/CRP.4.

7. The Conference notes that, under new UN financial procedures, funds must be available before meetings can be held. The Conference requests 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.

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ADVANCED REVIEW COPY

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda of the Review Conference**

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Submission of the final report of the Preparatory Committee
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure
6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
  - (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
  - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
8. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General
9. Programme of work
10. Review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in its article XII
  - (a) General debate
  - (b) Articles I-XV
  - (c) Preambular paragraphs and purposes of the Convention
11. Consideration of issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in its article XII and any possible consensus follow-up action
12. Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the Seventh Review Conference and the question of future review of the Convention
13. Other matters
  - (a) Financial issues
14. Report of the Committee of the Whole
15. Report of the Drafting Committee
16. Preparation and adoption of the final document(s)