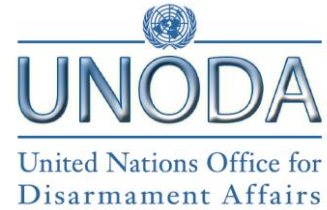




Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



To the Permanent Representatives  
To the United Nations Office at Geneva

22 May 2018

**INVITATION TO AN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COOPERATION AND  
ASSISTANCE UNDER ARTICLE X OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS  
CONVENTION**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22 JUNE 2018**

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of Norway and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), we have the honour to invite you to participate in an international workshop on cooperation and assistance under Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention. The workshop is primarily intended for disarmament experts from Permanent Missions in Geneva and will be held in Geneva on 22 June 2018 (exact venue to be provided in due course).

The workshop will serve as a platform for comprehensive and cross-regional dialogue on 'Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X'. This topic represents the focus of the first BWC Meeting of Experts which will take place in Geneva from 7 to 8 August 2018 chaired by Ambassador Maria Theresa Almojuela of the Philippines. The workshop is intended to stimulate discussions and contribute to recommendations for the Meeting of Experts in August. Furthermore, the workshop will also explore the links between the BWC and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The draft programme for the workshop is attached for your information.

We would be most grateful if you would be able to respond to this invitation no later than **8 June 2018**, by completing the attached registration form and returning it to the Implementation Support Unit (fax: 022 917 0483, e-mail: [bwc@un.org](mailto:bwc@un.org)). States Parties can nominate additional experts from capital at their own cost and subject to space at the workshop venue.

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this important topic.

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



Hans Brattskar  
Permanent Representative of  
Norway to the UN and other  
International Organizations in  
Geneva



Daniel Feakes  
Chief, BWC  
Implementation Support  
Unit, United Nations Office  
for Disarmament Affairs

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Provisional workshop programme  
Attachment 2: Registration form

**Attachment 1**

**Provisional Programme**

**22 June 2018**

08:30- 09:00            Workshop registration

**Session I: Assistance and cooperation under the BWC**

09:00 - 09:10            Workshop Opening

09:10 - 09:50            The Biological Weapons Convention and Article X implementation:  
An introductory overview

09:50 - 10:40            The evolution of Article X of the BWC

10:40 - 11:00            Coffee break

**Session II: Building capacities at the national, regional and global level**

11:00 – 11:45            Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The role  
of science

11:45 - 12:30            Developing human resources in biological sciences and technology  
related to implementation of the BWC

12:30 - 13:30            Lunch

13:30 – 14:15            Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in  
biosafety and biosecurity to enhance preparedness and response  
capacities to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons  
attacks

**Session III: International collaboration at the health-security interface**

14:15 - 15:10            Building innovative partnerships between public, private, philanthropic  
and civil organisations to enhance epidemic preparedness

15:10 - 15:30            Coffee break

**Session IV: Challenges and opportunities for international cooperation and assistance**

15:30 - 16:15 Identification of challenges and opportunities to developing international cooperation and assistance for peaceful purposes

16:15 - 17:00 Biotechnology in developing countries

**Session V: Considerations for the way ahead**

17:00 - 17:45 Strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X

17:45 - 18:00 Workshop Closure

**18:00 - 20:30 Dinner hosted by the Government of Norway**

**Attachment 2**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE UNDER  
ARTICLE X OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22 JUNE 2018**

*Kindly note:*

1. *Fill out the form for the nominated participant;*
2. *Return the form by e-mail to [bwc@un.org](mailto:bwc@un.org) or fax to +41 (0) 22 917 0483 **no later than 8 June 2018;***

**Participant's Information**

First Name(s):

Last Name:

Professional Title:

State Party:

Phone:

E-mail: