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). 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
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
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 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: