

REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING  
OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND  
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

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REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND  
TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

I. Introduction

1. Article XII of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, provides that:

"Five years after the entry into force of this Convention, or earlier if it is requested by a majority of Parties to the Convention by submitting a proposal to this effect to the Depositary Governments, a conference of States Parties to the Convention shall be held at Geneva, Switzerland, to review the operation of the Convention, with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention, including the provisions concerning negotiations on chemical weapons, are being realized. Such review shall take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention."

2. At its thirty-third session the General Assembly of the United Nations, in resolution 33/59, noted that after appropriate consultations, a Preparatory Committee for such a Conference was to be arranged. Following these consultations, it was agreed that a Preparatory Committee open to States Parties to the Convention would meet at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 9 July 1979, for a session lasting from one week to 10 days.

## II. Session of the Preparatory Committee

3. The session of the Preparatory Committee was opened by Mr. R. Jaipal, representative of the Secretary-General. The Committee elected, by consensus, Ambassador Mr. R. Harry Jay of Canada as Chairman. The Committee decided that Ambassadors Mr. M. Domokos of Hungary and Mr. C. R. Gharekhan of India would assist the Chairman in the performance of his functions. Ms. Amada Segarra, of the United Nations Centre for Disarmament, served as Secretary of the Committee.

4. The Preparatory Committee held eight meetings from 9-18 July 1979. The following States parties to the Convention participated in the Preparatory Committee:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

In accordance with paragraph 5 (e) of the report, Egypt, as signatory to the Convention, participated in the discussions of administrative matters before the Committee.

## III. Decisions on the organization and procedure of the Preparatory Committee

5. With reference to its own organization and procedure, the Committee took the following decisions:

- (a) To adopt as its agenda the provisional agenda prepared by the Chairman. The agenda adopted by the Committee appears in document BWC/CONF.I/PC/1;
- (b) To make every effort to adopt its decisions by consensus;
- (c) To dispense with summary records and to have records of decisions;
- (d) To use English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages;
- (e) That States signatories of the Biological Weapons Convention should be entitled to participate in the discussions of administrative matters before the Committee;

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IV. Organization of the Review Conference

6. The Committee, in conformity with its task to prepare the Review Conference of the parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, discussed the following questions related to the Conference:

- (a) Date and duration
- (b) Rules of procedure
- (c) Background documentation
- (d) Agenda
- (e) Final document(s)
- (f) Press and publicity arrangements

7. In connexion with the discussions under these headings, the following decisions were taken:

- (a) Date and duration

8. The Committee agreed, in principle, that the Review Conference should be held from 3 to 21 March 1980. Bearing in mind the provisions of article XII of the Convention, the Committee decided to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to notify States parties to the Convention of the dates agreed in the Committee and to ask for their views on the dates. It was understood that the Secretary-General would convey the views expressed by States parties to the depositary Governments.

- (b) Rules of procedure

9. For the purpose of making a recommendation on rules of procedure for the Review Conference, the Committee considered the draft rules of procedure contained in document BWC/CONF.I/PC/2 attached hereto, and agreed to those rules with the following changes:

- (1) In the heading of rule 1, the word "Treaty" was replaced by the word "Convention";
- (2) A foot-note was added to rule 12 reading as follows: "It is understood that all financial arrangements for the Review Conference do not constitute a precedent.";
- (3) Addition of a new paragraph to rule 35 as follows: "Representatives of other delegations may also attend the meetings of the Drafting Committee and may participate in its deliberations when matters of particular concern to them are under discussion.";

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- (4) The second sentence in rule 43 (1) was amended as follows: "... This means that any of those signatory States shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Conference; to address plenary meetings; to receive documents of the Conference and to submit its views in writing to the Conference, which shall be considered as conference documents.";
- (5) Rule 43 (4) was amended as follows: "The specialized agencies as well as regional intergovernmental organizations may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for Observer Agency status which will be accorded on the decision of the Conference. An Observer Agency shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the plenary other than those designated closed meetings and to receive the documents of the Conference. The Conference may also invite them to submit, in writing, their views and comments on questions within their competence, which may be circulated as conference documents."

(c) Background papers

10. The Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare a background paper on compliance by States parties with all their obligations under the Convention. The paper would start with a review of the negotiations leading up to the Convention. The main body of the document would be divided into two distinctly marked sections, as follows:

1. Compliance with obligations concerning the prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons,
2. Status of efforts to reach agreement on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

The first section would cover compliance with the obligations set out in articles I, II, III, IV, V and X taking into account the relevant parts of the preamble. For purposes of preparing this part of the document, the Secretariat would request States parties to provide information regarding compliance with the above-mentioned articles of the Convention. The second principal section of the paper would cover compliance with the Convention's provisions regarding chemical weapons and would include (a) a brief survey of the consideration of the subject in CCD, the Committee on Disarmament and the General Assembly, and (b) an account of the status of current negotiations, including bilateral negotiations.

11. The Committee decided to request the Depositary Governments to prepare a background paper on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention and to provide the paper to all States parties before the Review Conference.

12. It was also decided that the Secretary of the Committee would invite the comments of States parties on the background paper.

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13. The Committee further decided to invite States parties who wish to do so to communicate to the Secretary of the Committee their views on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention.

14. The Committee further decided to request the Secretary of the Committee to compile the comments of States parties on the paper prepared by the Depositary Governments together with national contributions and to provide these documents to States parties at the Review Conference.

(d) Agenda

15. The Committee considered a draft agenda for the Review Conference proposed by the Chairman, and after discussion, it approved the provisional agenda for the Review Conference which is attached hereto.

(e) Final documents

16. The Committee agreed that the Review Conference would adopt a final document that would be declaratory in purpose.

(f) Press and publicity arrangements

17. The Committee agreed that in view of its importance, the Review Conference merited full publicity and press coverage. In particular, it decided that at the end of every open meeting a press release should be issued.

V. Appointment of a Secretary-General of the Conference

18. Within the context of rule 10, providing for a Secretary-General of the Review Conference, the Committee decided to invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the members of the Preparatory Committee, to nominate an official to act on behalf of the Committee as provisional Secretary-General of the Review Conference in accordance with its rules of procedure.

VI. Adoption and distribution of the final report

19. At its last meeting on 18 July 1979, the Preparatory Committee adopted its final report and decided that the report would be submitted by the Secretary of the Preparatory Committee to the parties to the Convention and its signatories and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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