I. ORGANIZATION AND WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Introduction

1. The Final Declaration of the Second 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, in the section dealing with the review of Article XII of the Convention, contained the following decision:

"The Conference decides that the Third Review Conference shall be held in Geneva at the request of a majority of States Parties not later than 1991".\(^1\)

2. By resolution 45/57 B, adopted by consensus on 4 December 1990, the General Assembly, inter alia, noted that, at the request of the States Parties, a Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention would be held in Geneva in 1991, and that, following appropriate consultations, a Preparatory Committee open to all parties to the Convention had been formed and that the Committee would meet in Geneva from 8 to 12 April 1991.
3. The Preparatory Committee held one session at Geneva from 8 to 12 April 1991. The following 69 States Parties to the Convention participated in the session of the Preparatory Committee: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

4. At its second meeting on 12 April 1991, the Committee elected by acclamation Ambassador Roberto García Moritán (Argentina) as Chairman of the Committee. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Committee unanimously elected Ambassador Juraj Králik (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) and Ambassador Hendrik Wagemakers (Netherlands) as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee. The Committee authorized the Bureau to handle technical and other matters in the period before the Review Conference was convened.

5. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, Chief of the Committee and Conference Branch and Principal Officer, Department for Disarmament Affairs, who opened the session of the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Sammy Kum Bu, Senior Political Affairs Officer, Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Committee.

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

7. The Committee decided to use Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages.
8. The Committee, taking note of their written requests, decided to invite the representatives of five States Signatories of the Convention, namely, Egypt, Gabon, Iraq, Malaysia and the Syrian Arab Republic, to participate in its discussions without the right to take part in the making of decisions.

9. In the course of its session the 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) Final document(s)

10. At its third and last meeting, on 12 April 1991, the Preparatory Committee adopted its report, which was issued as a pre-session document of the Conference (BWC/CONF.III/1 and Add.1). The report contained, inter alia, the Provisional Agenda and the Draft Rules of Procedure for the Conference (BWC/CONF.III/I, Annexes I and II, respectively). In this connection, the Committee recommended that its Report, without the annexes, be annexed to the final document of the Third Review Conference (See Annex II).

11. Pursuant to the request made in United Nations General Assembly resolutions 44/115 C and 45/57 B, the Secretary-General of the United Nations circulated, in May 1991, to the States Parties to the Convention a report on the implementation of the confidence-building measures agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Second 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 (Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations: BWC/CONF.III/2 and Add.1, 2 and 3). In this connection, the Preparatory Committee recommended:

(a) that the report of the Secretary-General should not be translated in the languages of the Review Conference and should remain in the original languages of submission; and (b) that only a limited number of copies of the report, two per State Party, should be printed.
12. Pursuant to the request of the Preparatory Committee, the following background documents were also issued as pre-session documentation for the Conference:

(1) Background document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC/CONF.III/3 and Add. 1, 2 and 3);

(2) Background document on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC/CONF.III/4 and Add.1);

(3) The 1991 report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons to the Conference on Disarmament (BWC/CONF.III/5).

Organization of the Conference

13. In accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference was convened on 9 September 1991 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva for a period of three weeks.

14. At its first meeting on 9 September, the Conference elected by acclamation Ambassador Roberto García Moritán (Argentina) as its President.

15. At the same meeting, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was read out by the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs.

16. The Conference adopted its agenda as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.III/1, Annex I).

17. The Conference took note with appreciation of the Report of the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.III/1 and Add.1).
18. The Conference adopted its Rules of Procedure as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.III/1, Annex II). Upon the recommendation of the Drafting Committee, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference are contained in Annex III of the Final Document. The Rules of Procedure provided, *inter alia*, for (a) a General Committee, chaired by the President of the Conference and composed of the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, as well as the 20 Vice-Presidents of the Conference; (b) a Committee of the Whole; (c) a Drafting Committee, composed of representatives of the same 24 States Parties represented in the General 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.

19. The Conference elected by acclamation 20 Vice-Presidents from the following States Parties: Australia, China, Costa Rica, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Ethiopia, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sweden, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela. The Conference 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 H. Wagenmakers (Netherlands)
- **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. V. Koutchinsky (Ukraine)
- **Vice-Chairman:** Ambassador A.T. Mugomba (Zimbabwe)

**Drafting Committee:**
- **Chairman:** Ambassador T. Tóth (Hungary)
- **Vice-Chairman:** Ambassador E.A. Azikiwe (Nigeria)

**Credentials Committee:**
- **Chairman:** Ambassador W. Lang (Austria)
- **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. Han Chung On (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
The Conference also appointed the following five States Parties as members of
the Credentials Committee: Chile, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Kenya, New Zealand and Switzerland.

20. The Conference confirmed the nomination of Mr. Sammy Kum Buor 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.

Participation at the Conference

21. Seventy-eight States Parties to the Convention participated in the
Conference as follows: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium,
Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus,
Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,
Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras,
Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy,
Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia,
Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway,
Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea,
Romania, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand,
Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay,
Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

22. In addition, six States which have signed the Treaty but have 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: Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, Myanmar, Syrian Arab Republic and United
Arab Emirates.

23. Three States, Algeria, Israel and Oman, neither Parties to nor
Signatories of the Convention, were granted Observer status in accordance with
Rule 44, paragraph 2(a).
24. The United Nations, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) attended the Conference in accordance with Rule 44, paragraph 3.

25. Two specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and one regional intergovernmental organization, the League of Arab States, were granted Observer Agency status in accordance with Rule 44, paragraph 4.

26. Eleven non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Conference under Rule 44, paragraph 5.

27. A list of all delegations to the Conference, including States Parties, Signatories, Observer States, Observer Agencies and non-governmental organizations, is contained in Annex IV.

28. The Credentials Committee met on .. and .. September and on .. September it reported to the Conference on the credentials of the States Parties (BWC/CONF.III/21). At its ... plenary meeting on .. September the Conference took note of the report.

Work of the Conference

29. The Conference held .. plenary meetings between 9 and 27 September when it concluded its work.

30. The general debate, in which 45 States Parties and one Signatory State made statements, took place from the second to the sixth plenary meetings held from 9 to 12 September.

31. The General Committee, at its first meeting on 11 September, considered item 9 of the Agenda entitled "Programme of Work" and decided, inter alia, to make the following recommendations to the Conference:

(1) The Committee of the Whole should undertake the review of the various articles and provisions of the Convention under agenda items 10 (b), 10 (c), as well as consider items 11 and 12, namely:

10. Review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in its Article XII
   (b) Articles I-XV
   (c) Preambular paragraphs and purposes of the Convention
11. Consideration of issues identified in the review of Article XII contained in the Final Declaration of the Second Review Conference, and possible follow-up action.

12. Other matters, including the question of future review of the Convention.

(2) The Drafting Committee should undertake the task of preparing and submitting to the plenary the draft Final Document of the Conference, including the Final Declaration.

32. At its fifth plenary meeting on 12 September, the Conference adopted its indicative programme of work which took into account the above recommendations of the General Committee.

33. The Committee of the Whole held 9 meetings between 13 and 19 September, during which it reviewed the provisions of the Convention, article by article, followed by consideration of the Preamble. The Committee also examined agenda items 11 and 12. Its report (BWC/CONF.III/17) was submitted to the Conference at its seventh plenary meeting on 19 September. At the same meeting, the Conference took note of the report.

34. The Drafting Committee held 11 meetings between 19 and 26 September. At its eleventh and final meeting on 26 September, the Committee adopted its report to the Conference (BWC/CONF.III/22 and Add.1, 2 and 3). The Conference at its ... plenary meeting on .. September, took note of the report.

Documentation

35. A list of documents of the Conference is attached as Annex I.

Conclusion of the Conference