

## **Biological Weapons Convention: Regional Group Meetings April 2013**

### **Chairman's Speaking Notes**

*Eastern European Group: 10:30, Wednesday 17 April 2013, Room XXI*

*Western Group: 11:30, Wednesday 17 April 2013, Room XXI*

*Group of NAM and Other States: 15:00, Wednesday 17 April 2013, Room XXI*

### **Plans for the Meeting of Experts**

- The mandate for our work was set by the Seventh Review Conference and I intend to stick to that mandate.
- I will keep the overall allocation of time across each of our agenda items the same as it was last year - i.e. each item will have an equal allocation of time.
- I would like to reassure you that my efforts to develop a more detailed and structured schedule are not intended, in any way, to keep any issue out of our discussions.
- A more detailed and structured schedule is a tool we can use to ensure that we have allocated sufficient time to discuss any, and all, issues that States Parties indicate are of particular interest to them.
- I am seeking your assistance to identify what experts can, and should, be at the Meeting of Experts.
- I would like to hear your views on any specific experts, or areas of expertise, not likely to be on national delegations that you feel should be present at the Meeting of Experts.
- In line with past practice, I will be:
  - Inviting relevant international organizations – which ones do you feel are most relevant?
  - Inviting a small number of experts to participate as Guests of the Meeting- I am requesting your assistance in identifying relevant individuals.
  - Continuing to interact with non-governmental community. I have asked Vice Chairs to assist me in this and I encourage you to do likewise. I have also asked the ISU to support us in these efforts.

### **Sponsorship and Universalization**

- I encourage those delegations which may wish to request sponsorship to participate in the Meeting of Experts to contact the ISU as soon as possible.
- I would like all States Parties to search for any resources which could be made available to the sponsorship programme
- I intend to continue to work on universalization throughout the year and request your support to help expand the membership of the Convention.
- I hope that those States Parties undertaking universalization activities will provide the Chair and the ISU with details of their efforts, any results achieved, or information gathered.

## **Background papers**

- I have also begun to think about the sort of background information that we might need to enable our discussions. So far, I have identified a need to cover:
    - Any advances since our work last year in enabling technology, covering both potential risks and benefits;
    - Advances in technologies for dealing with disease, again covering both risks and benefits; as well as
    - Developments relevant to national oversight of advances that have potential for uses contrary to the Convention, including dual use research of concern.
  - I would welcome view from States Parties on these, or other topics, we might usefully request the ISU to cover in the background papers.
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