

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

Geneva, 5-22 December 2011

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To the Permanent Representatives of the States Parties
and Signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition
of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

17 November 2011

Excellency,

I am writing once more in my capacity as President-designate of the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), to provide a further update on preparations for the Conference, which is now only two weeks away.

I would like to begin by thanking you for your continuing support and active engagement in the preparations. Over 20 working papers have already been published, and there has been a busy schedule of informal meetings and consultations, both in Geneva and elsewhere. I am grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by States Parties, and I am pleased that the atmosphere remains collegial and constructive. These are all very promising signs for the Review Conference.

Programme of work

Following consultations with delegations, I have prepared the attached draft provisional indicative programme of work for the Conference. This draft will be processed and issued as an official document, ready for adoption at our opening session on 5 December. I stress, however, that the programme is both *provisional* and *indicative*, and we will need to retain the flexibility to manage our work in the most efficient manner.

The programme outlines the development of the work of the Conference, starting with the general debate, moving through the Committee of the Whole and informal plenaries that will deal with the main substantive issues, and finishing with the Drafting Committee and the preparation and adoption of the final document.

The programme envisages that the Committee of the Whole will conduct the article-by-article review of the Convention, developing the text of the final declaration, while informal plenaries will work on the cross-cutting issues for which specific decisions will be recorded in the forward-looking section of the final document (for example, an intersessional process, any revisions to the CBMs, the future of the ISU, etc). There will undoubtedly be some overlap between the Committee of the Whole and the informal plenaries, but this is natural

and welcome: it is entirely appropriate that reflections from the backward-looking article-by-article review should inform the decisions taken in the forward-looking agenda.

Registration and credentials

I would like to take this opportunity to remind delegations to register their participation in the Review Conference, according to the procedure outlined on the ISU's website:

www.unog.ch/bwc/7rc. I also remind delegations of the need to submit formal credentials, signed by the head of state or government, or minister for foreign affairs. Credentials should be addressed to the provisional Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Richard Lennane, at the Implementation Support Unit.

Further consultations

Given the positive feedback from the informal consultations on science and technology held on 4 November, I will be convening two further consultations in the same format on other issues. Invitations will follow shortly. I also propose to meet each of the regional groups in the week preceding the Review Conference, to discuss the programme of work and any last-minute queries or issues. Of course, I remain available for bilateral consultations at any time, and I encourage you to contact me without delay if there is any matter you would like to discuss before the Conference.

Conclusion

We have all worked hard to prepare for this conference, and it is satisfying to see many significant issues starting to take shape in a promising and constructive way. I encourage you to make the most of the time remaining before the start of the meeting to read the various background documents and working papers, to discuss them with other delegations, and to consider how best we can work to ensure that the Seventh Review Conference makes significant and lasting contribution to improving the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention. I remain confident of our collective ability to take a major step forward in the history of this fundamental security treaty, and I look forward to working with you at the Review Conference.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Paul van den IJssel
Ambassador of the Netherlands to the
Conference on Disarmament
President-designate of the Seventh Review
Conference

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: SEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE
Geneva, 5-22 December 2011

Draft Provisional Indicative Programme of Work
Prepared by the President-designate, 17 November 2011

	Mon 5 Dec	Tue 6 Dec	Wed 7 Dec	Thur 8 Dec	Fri 9 Dec
AM	Opening formalities (agenda items 1-9) General debate (agenda item 10 (a))	General debate	Plenary Committee of the Whole (agenda item 10 (b): articles I-IV)	(10:00: suspend for industry panel) 11.00 Committee of the Whole (agenda item 10 (b): articles V-VI)	Committee of the Whole (agenda item 10 (b): Articles VII-X)
PM	General debate	General debate (16:30: suspend for NGO statements)	Informal plenary (agenda items 11-13)	Informal plenary (agenda items 11-13) (17:00: suspend for poster session)	Informal plenary (agenda items 11-13) Plenary: progress review

	Mon 12 Dec	Tue 13 Dec	Wed 14 Dec	Thur 15 Dec	Fri 16 Dec
AM	Committee of the Whole (agenda item 10 (b): Articles XI-XV)	Committee of the Whole (agenda item 10 (b)/(c): articles/preamble as required)	Committee of the Whole (agenda item 10 (b)/(c): articles/preamble as required)	Plenary: agenda item 14: Report of the Committee of the Whole	Drafting Committee
PM	Informal plenary (agenda items 11-13)	Informal plenary (agenda items 11-13)	Committee of the Whole (consideration of the Committee's report)	Drafting Committee (draft of final document)	Informal consultations (final document) Plenary: progress review

	Mon 19 Dec	Tue 20 Dec	Wed 21 Dec	Thur 22 Dec
AM	Drafting Committee	Drafting Committee (consideration of the Committee's report)	Informal consultations (final document)	(Additional meeting if required)
PM	Drafting Committee	Plenary: agenda item 15: Report of the Drafting Committee	Plenary: agenda item 16: Preparation and adoption of the final document Closing formalities	(Additional meeting if required)

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18 November 2011

OPEN-ENDED CONSULTATIONS ON A NEW INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS

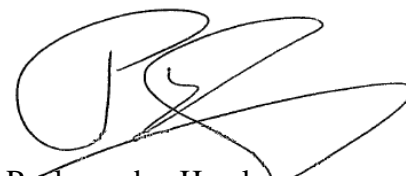
Excellency,

I am writing once more in my capacity as President-designate of the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), to invite you and your colleagues to participate in informal open-ended consultations I will be holding from **13:30 to 15:00 on Wednesday 23 November 2011, in Room XXV** of the Palais des Nations.

The consultations will be held on the same basis as the consultations on science and technology I convened on 4 November. A number of proposals have been made by States Parties for the future of the BWC intersessional process (available under "Advance Copies" at www.unog.ch/bwc/7rc). The open-ended consultations will be an opportunity for those States Parties which have made proposals to present and explain them, and for all delegations to discuss the proposals, make alternative suggestions, or raise any other aspect of the issue they consider relevant. The purpose is not to negotiate or conclude anything, but rather to explore the issue with a view to making the best use of our time at the Review Conference.

We are currently in a very busy period for disarmament meetings in Geneva, and I apologise for having to schedule these consultations during the lunch period. The consultations will begin at 13:30 to allow delegations the chance to eat before we begin. I do hope you will be able to join us, and I look forward to hearing your perspectives.

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



Paul van den IJssel
Ambassador of the Netherlands to the
Conference on Disarmament
President-designate of the Seventh Review
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