

**MEETING 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**

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To the Permanent Representatives in Geneva 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

23 March 2012

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2012

Excellency,

Further to the letters from the Chairman of 27 February and 15 March, I am writing to inform you of several important matters of concerning arrangements for the 2012 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

1. Chairman and Vice-chairs

The Seventh Review Conference of the BWC appointed Ambassador Idriss Jazaïry of Algeria as Chairman of the 2012 meetings of the BWC. As he advised in his letter to you of 15 March 2012, Ambassador Jazaïry will not now be able to continue as Chairman.

In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference, the Group of the Non-aligned Movement and Other States is responsible for nominating the chair of the BWC meetings in 2012. The Coordinator of the Group, the delegation of Cuba, has informed the Implementation Support Unit that the Group has agreed to nominate the incoming permanent representative of Algeria, **Ambassador Boujemâa Delmi**, as Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties, in place of Ambassador Jazaïry.

The Seventh Review Conference also decided that the Chairman of the intersessional programme meetings would be supported by two vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups. The Coordinator of the Eastern European Group, the delegation of Romania, has informed the ISU that the Group has nominated **Dr. Cezary Lusinski** of Poland as one vice-chair. The Coordinator of the Western Group, the delegation of Australia, has informed the ISU that the Group has nominated **Ambassador Alexandre Fasel** of Switzerland as the other vice-chair.

If you have any objection to the respective appointments of Ambassador Delmi as Chairman and Ambassador Fasel and Dr. Lusinski as vice-chairs, please inform me in writing by **Friday 30 March 2012**. If no State Party has objected by this date, I will notify all States Parties that the appointments are officially confirmed with effect from **Monday 2 April 2012**.

2. Sponsorship programme

The Seventh Review Conference decided to establish a sponsorship programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties in a position to provide them, in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme. The ISU is responsible for administering this programme. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to:

(a) request States Parties in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions to the ISU as soon as possible, to enable the programme to begin operation in time for the Meeting of Experts in July; and

(b) invite applications from developing States Parties to receive sponsorship to support the participation of capital-based experts at the Meeting of Experts. If you wish to apply, please contact the ISU (preferably by e-mail at bwc@unog.ch) no later than **25 May 2012**. Applications received after this date cannot be processed in time for the 2012 Meeting of Experts (but will be considered for subsequent meetings).

3. Assistance database

The Seventh Review Conference decided to establish a database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties. The Conference invited States Parties to submit on a voluntary basis to the ISU any requirements, needs or offers for assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes.

The ISU is finalizing the technical aspects of the database, and is ready to receive submissions from States Parties for inclusion. Please submit any requests or offers by e-mail to bwc@unog.ch. In the initial phase, the database will be made available only in the restricted area of the ISU website (www.unog.ch/bwc/restricted). Following review and discussion at the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties, consideration may be given to making part or all of the database available publicly.

4. Further information

If you have any questions, or require further information on the above matters, or any other aspect of the BWC, please do not hesitate to contact the ISU by telephone or e-mail. Please also consult the ISU website, www.unog.ch/bwc, for the latest information and documents.

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



Richard Lennane
Head, BWC Implementation Support Unit
Secretary of the Meeting of States Parties