

**SIXTH 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, 20 November - 8 December 2006

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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

7 November 2006

Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as President-designate of the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention to update you on the preparations for the Conference.

As I said in my informal briefing to delegations on 3 November, I am confident that the ground has been well-prepared for a productive conference and a positive result. I have consulted widely, and I have been impressed by the hard work that States Parties are putting into their preparations, and by the constructive spirit that is very much in evidence.

My sense is that States Parties realise what an important opportunity this Review Conference represents, and are determined not to waste it. And in recognition of the importance of our task, we expect to have high-level representation at the opening of the Conference. I have been informed that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, will address the inaugural session.

It is now time to move into a higher gear. We must intensify our efforts and plan our approach. At the informal briefing, I outlined my proposal for a programme of work for the Conference. I now attach a draft indicative programme constructed as I outlined. This draft indicative programme will be prepared and issued as an official document, ready for adoption at our opening session on 20 November. I stress, however, that it is an *indicative* programme, and we will need to retain the flexibility to manage our work in the most efficient manner.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind delegations to register their participation with the Secretariat, to submit their formal credentials, and to inscribe on the list of speakers for the General Debate if desired. The Secretariat would provide further information and assistance on all these matters.

For the General Debate, I would once more appeal to delegations to keep their statements to a maximum of 5-7 minutes (10-12 minutes for group statements).

I am advised by the Secretariat that because of the tight schedule of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Conference will begin at **10:00 promptly on Monday 20 November in Room XVIII**. I would therefore ask delegations to please ensure that they are **seated and ready to commence by 09:50 at the latest**.

I am grateful to all delegations for their continuing support, and I remain available for consultations at any time.

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

[signed]

Masood Khan
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Pakistan
President-designate of the
Sixth Review Conference

BWC Sixth Review Conference: Draft Indicative Programme of Work

Mon 20 Nov	Tue 21 Nov	Wed 22 Nov	Thur 23 Nov	Fri 24 Nov
Opening formalities General debate	General debate	Plenary Committee of the Whole (Articles I-IV)	Informal plenary (thematic discussion)	Committee of the Whole (Articles XI-XV)
General debate	General debate (16:30: suspend for NGO statements)	Committee of the Whole (Articles V-VI)	Committee of the Whole (Articles VII-X)	Informal plenary (thematic discussion) Plenary

Mon 27 Nov	Tue 28 Nov	Wed 29 Nov	Thur 30 Nov	Fri 1 Dec
Informal plenary (thematic discussion)	Committee of the Whole (Article by article)	Informal plenary (thematic discussion)	Plenary: Report of the Committee of the Whole	Drafting Committee
Committee of the Whole (Article by article)	Plenary: progress review (Art by art. and thematic) Committee of the Whole	Committee of the Whole (consideration of the Committee's report)	Drafting Committee (first draft of Final Document)	Informal consultations

Mon 4 Dec	Tue 5 Dec	Wed 6 Dec	Thur 7 Dec	Fri 8 Dec
Plenary: Progress review Drafting Committee (second draft)	Drafting Committee (consideration of the Committee's report)	Informal consultations	(Additional meeting if required)	(Additional meeting if required)
Drafting Committee	Plenary: Report of the Drafting Committee	Plenary: Adoption of the Final Document Closing formalities	(Additional meeting if required)	(Additional meeting if required)