

**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**

Geneva, 10-14 December 2007

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To the Permanent Representatives in Geneva 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

10 July 2007

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: MEETING OF EXPERTS

Excellency,

Further to my letter to you of 24 May, I am writing once more in my capacity as Chairman of the 2007 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention to update you on plans for the forthcoming Meeting of Experts, which will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 20 to 24 August 2007.

Agenda and programme of work

The provisional agenda for the Meeting of Experts (BWC/MSP/2007/MX/1) has been issued and is available in all languages from the United Nations Official Document System (<http://documents.un.org>) or from the BWC website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc>). The agenda follows the same pattern as for previous expert meetings, with the two substantive items drawn directly from the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference:

- (i) Ways and means to enhance national implementation, including enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions;
- (ii) Regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation of the Convention.

In my earlier letter, I encouraged your country's participation in the Meeting of Experts for two reasons: to share your experiences and expertise, and to benefit from the experience and expertise of other States Parties and relevant international organisations. I hope that on this basis you have been able to arrange for suitable experts to participate in the meeting.

We now need to develop a more detailed plan for the conduct of the meeting. The attached annex sets out some preliminary ideas for a programme of work, which I would like to discuss further with delegations. To assist in developing the programme, I would be most grateful if you would inform me (via the Implementation Support Unit):

- (i) whether your delegation intends to make one or more presentations during the meeting;
- (ii) what the topic of the presentation(s) will be; and
- (iii) any preferences for timing (for example, if a particular expert can only be in Geneva on a certain day).

I would again strongly encourage States Parties to consider making a presentation: the success of the Meeting of Experts depends on the diversity and representative nature of the contributions.

Participation of international and regional intergovernmental organisations

I have written to a number of particularly relevant international and regional intergovernmental organisations to invite them to participate in our discussions as observers. They include Interpol, ASEAN, the African Union, the Organization of American States, and the League of Arab States. I would be happy to receive suggestions for other organisations that might help us in our work.

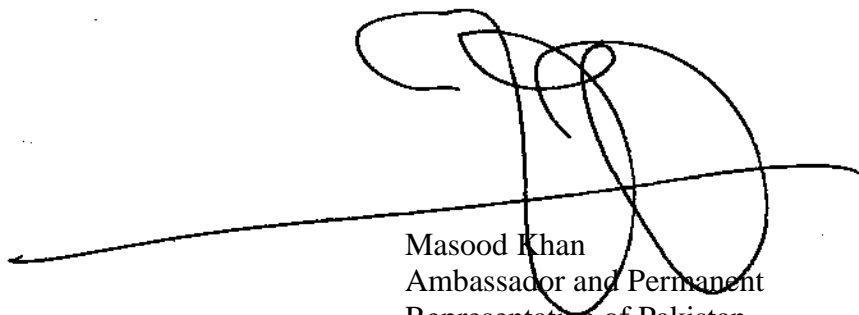
Group consultations

I would welcome the opportunity to consult the regional groups on preparations for the Meeting of Experts, and I will be liaising with the group coordinators to arrange mutually convenient times. In the interim, I am available in Geneva for bilateral consultations at any time, and would be most interested to hear your views (I can be contacted through the ISU, or at the Pakistan Mission in Geneva, tel: 022 749 1930, e-mail: masood.hatiif@gmail.com).

Finally, I would like to remind you of my earlier request to provide the ISU with any updates to your national implementation measures, and to check the BWC website regularly (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc>), including the restricted area which is now operational.

Thank you for your continuing support and cooperation, and I look forward to a productive and stimulating meeting in August.

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



Masood Khan
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Pakistan
Chairman of the 2007 Meeting of Experts
and Meeting of States Parties

Annex

Preliminary outline of a programme of work for the BWC Meeting of Experts

A reasonable approach would be to divide the time more or less equally between the two topics at the outset, but retain the flexibility to make adjustments as the work proceeds. With this in mind, one possibility is that following the opening formalities and any general statements on the Monday morning, the next three sessions are devoted to topic (i), and the three sessions following that are devoted to topic (ii).

That would leave the Thursday afternoon and Friday morning for consolidating the discussions and preparing the factual report of the Meeting. Representatives of relevant international and regional intergovernmental organisations could make presentations within the sessions allocated to each of the topics. In accordance with the standard practice, some separate time would be made available for non-governmental organizations to address States Parties.

The table below gives an indicative outline of how the programme might look. Consultations with delegations are continuing, and suggestions are welcome. It may also be necessary to adjust the programme depending on the number of presentations States Parties wish to make on each topic, and the availability of the relevant experts.

	Mon 20/8	Tue 21/8	Wed 22/8	Thur 23/8	Fri 24/8
AM	10:00 Opening formalities; general statements (if any) 11:00 Topic (i)	Topic (i)	Topic (ii)	Topic (ii)	Preparation of factual report
PM	Topic (i)	15:00 informal consultations (NGO statements) 16:00 Topic (i)	Topic (ii)	Discussion and consolidation	Adoption of report; Closing formalities.

After consultations with the regional groups in early August a revised provisional programme of work will be issued, reflecting any feedback received.
