

**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 and Signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition
of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

18 October 2007

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Excellency,

I am writing once more in my capacity as Chairman of the 2007 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention, to thank you for your contribution to the success of the Meeting of Experts held in August, and to update you on plans for the forthcoming Meeting of States Parties, which will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 10 to 14 December 2007.

The Meeting of Experts adopted a factual report describing its work on the two topics: ways and means to enhance national implementation, and regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation of the Convention (see BWC/MSP/2007/MX/3). Annexed to this report was a list of the various proposals and ideas on the two topics that were put forward in the course of the meeting.

As I foreshadowed at the close of the meeting, and as was done in previous years, I have consolidated these proposals and ideas, removing duplications and merging similar concepts, to produce a synthesis paper. This synthesis, which is attached, is intended as food for thought, to help guide your preparations for the Meeting of States Parties. It contains no new material, but simply reflects the ideas put forward at the Meeting of Experts in what I hope is a reasonably coherent, concise and accessible way. It is not intended to exclude any proposal from consideration, and States Parties are of course welcome to make additional proposals at the Meeting of States Parties. The synthesis paper is a resource for States Parties to draw upon in their preparations, and I encourage you to use it that way. As in previous years, the synthesis will be issued as an official document in all languages.

I have also prepared a provisional agenda for the Meeting of States Parties, an advance version of which I attach for your information. The agenda is the same as in previous years, with the addition of two new items mandated by the Sixth Review Conference: reports on universalization activities, and the report of the Implementation Support Unit (including on the confidence-building measures).

As to the operation of the Meeting of States Parties, I believe it is important that we take the opportunity to add value to the work done at the Meeting of Experts. One particular aspect

that I think could be further developed is the role of commercial industry in national implementation, and I propose to invite some industry representatives to address a special informal segment of the meeting. Another area of focus could be the development of the Implementation Support Unit's role as a clearing-house for offers of and requests for assistance with national implementation, and as a resource for improving coordination of regional and sub-regional cooperation.

On the outcome of the meeting, we should aim for a product that genuinely promotes common understanding and that will help States Parties, including those which are not able to participate in our meetings, to take effective action on our two topics. I am interested in hearing the views of delegations on how we can best achieve this, and I will be consulting widely in the coming weeks, both in Geneva and in New York. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of the preparations for the meeting (I can be contacted through the ISU, or at the Pakistan Mission in Geneva, tel: 022 749 1930, e-mail: masood.hatiif@gmail.com).

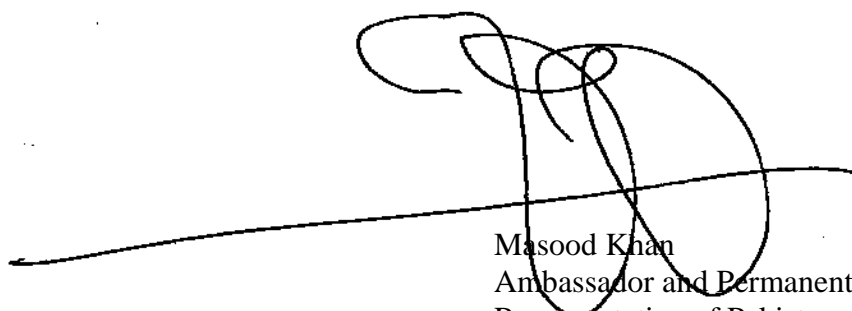
In the lead up to the Meeting of States Parties, I will also be preparing a report on the Promotion of Universalization, as mandated by the Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference. I would, therefore, encourage you to forward any relevant information to the Implementation Support Unit. I have been informed that Burundi (Signatory) and the Comoros (State not party) have contacted the ISU requesting assistance to attend the Meeting of Experts. As you will no doubt recall, no funds have been allocated for this specific purpose. Any State Party that finds itself in a position to offer sponsorship should contact the Implementation Support Unit.

I would also welcome the opportunity to consult the regional groups on preparations for the Meeting of States Parties, and I will be liaising with the group coordinators to arrange mutually convenient times.

Finally, I would like to remind you to check the BWC website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc>) regularly, including the restricted area which contains information for States Parties only.

Thank you for your continuing support and cooperation, and I look forward to a productive Meeting of States Parties in December.

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

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

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

encl: (1) Synthesis paper (6 pages)
(2) Provisional agenda (1 page)