

**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, 7-11 December 2009

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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

20 July 2009

Excellency,

With the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts (24-28 August) now only one month away, I am writing once more in my capacity as Chair to update you on preparations for the meeting.

Schedule

Following my consultations, I have developed the attached indicative schedule, which shows the proposed allocation of time during the meeting, as well as the various lunchtime and morning seminars presented by a number of interested organizations. A formal programme of work, based on this indicative schedule, will be prepared for adoption by States Parties in the usual way. Again, I would like to remind delegations that we have a lot of material to cover in one week, and we will need to retain a degree of flexibility in our scheduling.

Poster session

Please note that the poster session will be held from 16:00-18:00 on Thursday 27 August, in the area outside Room XIX (where the Meeting of Experts is being held). Posters are welcome to be left up for the entire week. The title and a summary of posters, as well as an electronic copy where one exists, should be provided to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) as soon as possible. Guidelines for preparing posters are available from the ISU website, <http://www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting>. The poster session will be an important opportunity for sharing information on both specific needs for, and capabilities to provide, capacity building in the area of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases. I encourage all delegations to participate.

Statements and presentations

To help ensure the smooth running of the meeting, I would be grateful if delegations could inform the ISU, as soon as possible, of any statements and presentations they plan to make during the meeting. I encourage delegations to contact the ISU to discuss the scheduling of contributions, as this will help us to group related contributions together, leading to a more coherent and rewarding

discussion. I would like to remind delegations of the limit of **five minutes** for national statements to the meeting, and **15 minutes** for technical presentations.

Registration

I hope all delegations have received the registration information sent by the ISU on 14 July. Full information on registration is available on the ISU website: **www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting**. Please contact the ISU if you have any queries.

Sponsorship for attendance

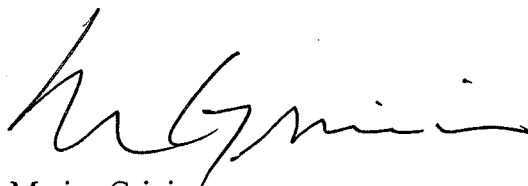
I would like to thank sincerely those States Parties which have kindly offered assistance to allow experts from other States Parties to travel to Geneva to participate in the Meeting of Experts. But we still have outstanding requests from several other States Parties for assistance. Please contact the ISU if you can help with sponsorship.

Further information

I would like to thank again States Parties for their feedback and suggestions, and for the extensive preparations they have been making. If you have further comments or questions, please feel free to contact me directly, or through the Implementation Support Unit. I invite all delegations to check regularly the ISU website (**<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting>**), where official documents, including working papers, are now being posted. The background information papers prepared by the ISU will be available on the website shortly. I also intend to host a reception for the Head and one other member of your delegation, at the Canadian Mission, on the evening of 24 August. Information and invitations regarding this event will be made available closer to the meeting.

Thank you once again for your support and cooperation, and I look forward to working with you at the Meeting of Experts, which promises to be highly informative and productive.

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



Marius Grinius
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada
Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties

Biological Weapons Convention: Meeting of Experts 2009

Indicative Schedule

	MONDAY 24 AUGUST	TUESDAY 25 AUGUST	WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST	THURSDAY 27 AUGUST	FRIDAY 28 AUGUST
09.00 – 10.00					Room XXIII Policy implications of the potential for de novo synthesis of smallpox (International Security & Biopolicy Institute)
10.00 – 13.00	Room XIX Plenary • Opening Formalities • Introductory Statements	Room XIX Working Session 1: National disease surveillance arrangements	Room XIX Working Session 4: Specific capabilities and experiences in providing assistance for capacity-building; sources of assistance and mechanisms for promoting capacity-building	Room XIX Discussion Panel 1: Integrating responses to human, animal and plant diseases Working Session 6: The role of international, regional and non-governmental organisations	Room XIX Informal/Plenary Consideration of report
13.00 – 15.00	Room XXIII Launch of the European Union BWC Joint Action Room XXII 14:30: "Speed networking"	Room XXIII Disease Surveillance Networks (International Council for the Life Sciences)	Room XXIII Seminar: title TBA	Room XXIII The stockpiling and delivery of medical countermeasures (International Security & Biopolicy Institute)	
15.00 – 18.00	Room XIX Plenary • Introductory Statements (16:30: Time reserved for NGO statements)	Room XIX Working Session 2: National disease surveillance arrangements (continued) Working Session 3: International disease surveillance arrangements	Room XIX Working Session 5: Specific needs for capacity-building & challenges in dealing with disease	Room XIX Discussion Panel 2: Public-private partnerships as a tool for dealing with disease 16:00: Poster Session (outside room XIX)	Room XIX Plenary • Adoption of Report • Closing remarks • Closing formalities