



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND**

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

29 July 2008

Excellency,

With the Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts (18-22 August) now only three weeks away, I am writing once more in my capacity as Chairman to update you on preparations for the meeting.

I would like to begin by thanking States Parties once more for their feedback and suggestions, and for the extensive preparations they have been making. A number of working papers have already been submitted, and can be viewed on the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting>) along with the four background information papers prepared by the ISU.

Schedule

In consultation with the regional groups and individual delegations, I have further refined the schedule for the meeting. The attached indicative schedule shows the proposed allocation of time during the meeting, as well as the two poster sessions and 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.

Participation

I am pleased to report that a large proportion of the international, scientific and professional organizations I invited to participate in our meeting have accepted. In response to requests from delegations, a list of the organizations that have accepted so far is attached, along with a brief description of the professional and scientific associations which may be less familiar to diplomatic colleagues in Geneva.

Statements and presentations

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

Registration

I hope all delegations have received the registration information sent by the ISU on 1 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. So far, experts from four States Parties have received sponsorship to attend. This is most encouraging, and will make an important difference to our work. But we still have outstanding requests from several other States Parties for assistance. Please contact the ISU if you can help with sponsorship.

Further consultations

As before, I remain available for bilateral or regional consultations at any time, and I value your continued feedback as we finalise the arrangements for the meeting. The Implementation Support Unit is at your disposal for all administrative and technical enquiries, and I encourage you to check the ISU website regularly (**<http://www.unog.ch/bwc>**) for up-to-date information and announcements.

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 productive.

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

[signed]

Georgi Avramchev
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Macedonia
Chairman of the 2008 Biological Weapons Convention
Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties