

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

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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

12 July 2010

Excellency,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chairman of the 2010 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention. Allow me to begin by thanking you both for your support of my nomination, and for your understanding of the special circumstances that have led to the change of Chair. I will make every effort to fulfill this role in the best possible way in spite of my delicate health.

The BWC Meeting of Experts will be held in Geneva as planned from 23 to 27 August 2010. I would like to assure you that I intend to continue along the same lines set by my predecessor, Ambassador Portales, as outlined in his letter to States Parties of 25 February 2010 and discussed with the regional groups on 29 and 30 March 2010. In particular, I plan to follow the accepted working practices and successful pattern established by previous meetings. The arrangements for the 2010 Meeting of Experts will therefore be very similar to those for last year's meeting. I briefly outline the main considerations below, and I hope to discuss them in more detail with the regional groups at an early opportunity.

Schedule

I have developed the attached indicative schedule for the Meeting of Experts, 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. As in previous years, 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

I am proposing that the poster session be held from **16:30-18:00 on Tuesday 24 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 national and international aspects of the provision of assistance in the case of

alleged use of biological weapons, including on specific activities aimed at building national capabilities.

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 for the Meeting of Experts

Delegations are kindly requested to register their participation in the usual way. Full information on the registration procedure is available on the ISU website: **www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting**. Please contact the ISU if you have any queries.

Further information

I would like to thank States Parties for the feedback and suggestions provided both to my predecessor and myself, and for the extensive preparations they have been making. I will be contacting the coordinators of the regional groups to seek an early opportunity to meet the groups to discuss preparations for the Meeting of Experts. In the interim, if you have any 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.

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

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



Pedro Oyarce
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile
Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties