

**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, 6-10 December 2010

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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

15 October 2010

Excellency,

I am writing once more in my capacity as Chairman of the 2010 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 6 to 10 December 2010.

The Meeting of Experts adopted a factual report describing its work provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons (see BWC/MSP/2010/MX/3). Annexed to this report was a list of the various proposals and ideas that were put forward in the course of the meeting.

As I foreshadowed at the close of the meeting, and as has been 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 follows exactly the same form as that of last year, including the 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).

On the outcome of the Meeting of States Parties, we should once again aim for an action-oriented product that closely resembles past reports and makes use of existing precedents and practices. The common understandings that we reach should be of practical assistance to all States Parties and enable them to take effective action in areas related to our topic: the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use

of biological or toxin weapons, including improving national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis and public health systems.

On the confidence-building measures (CBMs), I am pleased to report that this year a record number of States Parties have participated: a total of 70 CBMs have been submitted so far. This is good news, and I thank all those States Parties who have participated, and all those who have encouraged or assisted others to participate. I would again encourage all States Parties that have not yet submitted their CBM in 2010 to do so as soon as possible. Information on participating in the CBMs is available from the ISU website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms>).

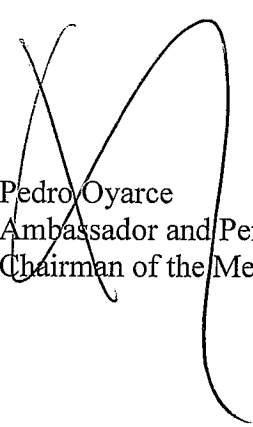
In the lead up to the Meeting of States Parties, I will also be preparing a report on the promotion of universalization, as mandated by the Sixth Review Conference. I would therefore ask you to forward to the ISU **details of any contacts you may have had with states not party to the BWC**, and any other information relevant to securing additional accessions and ratifications.

As always, I am prepared to receive further contributions from delegations on how we can best achieve our objectives for the Meeting of States Parties. Please do not hesitate to contact me through the ISU if you would like to discuss any aspect of the preparations for the meeting.

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.



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

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