

**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

15 October 2009

Excellency,

I am writing once more in my capacity as Chairman of the 2009 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 7 to 11 December 2009.

The Meeting of Experts adopted a factual report describing its work on promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases (see BWC/MSP/2009/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 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 building capacity for disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. In particular, the outcome should be of use to those States Parties that are not able to

participate in our meetings. I am convinced we must keep in mind the interests and needs of the entire membership of the Convention, especially the smaller States Parties which are often those most in need of assistance and encouragement.

When I wrote to you in February, I identified participation in the confidence-building measures (CBMs) as a priority for my chairmanship. It is with some concern that I have noted that number of returns received so far this year is less than had been received by this point in 2007 and 2008. I would encourage all States Parties that have not yet submitted their CBM to do so as soon as possible. In particular, I would encourage the 16 States Parties that have reported in recent years, but have yet to do so this year, to update the information they have provided (see attached list). 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, encourage 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 interested in hearing the views of delegations on how we can best achieve our objectives for the Meeting of States Parties, and I will be consulting widely in the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact me through the ISU if you would like to discuss any aspect of the preparations for the meeting. I would also welcome the opportunity to consult the regional groups, 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.



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

Attachments: 1. Provisional agenda (1 page)  
2. List of CBM submissions in 2009 (1 page)  
3. Synthesis paper (5 pages)

## **ATTACHMENT 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF STATE PARTIES**

Submitted by the Chairman

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Adoption of the Programme of Work.
4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure.
5. General debate.
6. Consideration of, with a view to enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases:
  - (a) for States Parties in need of assistance, identifying requirements and requests for capacity enhancement; and
  - (b) from States Parties in a position to do so, and international organizations, opportunities for providing assistance related to these fields.
7. Reports from the Chairman and States Parties on universalization activities.
8. Report of the Implementation Support Unit (including report on participation in the confidence-building measures).
9. Arrangements for the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2010.
10. Adoption of the report of the Meeting.
11. Closing of the Meeting.

**ATTACHMENT 2: LIST OF STATES PARTIES THAT HAVE SUBMITTED A CBM  
RETURN SO FAR IN 2009**

- |                      |                                   |  |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Argentina         | 22. Germany                       | 42. Portugal   |
| 2. Armenia           | 23. Greece                        | 43. Qatar  |
| 3. Australia         | 24. Hungary                       | 44. Republic of Korea  |
| 4. Austria           | 25. Indonesia                     | 45. Republic of Moldova  |
| 5. Bangladesh        | 26. Iran (Islamic<br>Republic of) | 46. Romania  |
| 6. Belarus           | 27. Iraq                          | 47. Russian Federation   |
| 7. Belgium           | 28. Ireland                       | 48. Serbia   |
| 8. Brunei Darussalam | 29. Italy                         | 49. Slovakia   |
| 9. Bulgaria          | 30. Japan                         | 50. Slovenia   |
| 10. Canada           | 31. Latvia                        | 51. South Africa   |
| 11. China            | 32. Lebanon                       | 52. Spain  |
| 12. Croatia          | 33. Liechtenstein                 | 53. Sweden   |
| 13. Cuba             | 34. Lithuania                     | 54. Switzerland  |
| 14. Cyprus           | 35. Malta                         | 55. Tunisia  |
| 15. Czech Republic   | 36. Mexico                        | 56. Turkey   |
| 16. Denmark          | 37. Morocco                       | 57. United Kingdom of<br>Great Britain and<br>Northern Ireland |
| 17. Estonia          | 38. Netherlands                   | 58. United States of<br>America                                |
| 18. Finland          | 39. New Zealand                   | 59. Uzbekistan   |
| 19. France           | 40. Norway                        |  |
| 20. Gambia           | 41. Poland                        |  |
| 21. Georgia          |                                   |  |

**LIST OF STATES PARTIES THAT SUBMITTED A CBM RETURN IN  
2007 OR 2008 THAT HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED IN 2009**

- |               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Azerbaijan | 9. Kyrgyzstan              |
| 2. Bahrain    | 10. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya |
| 3. Brazil     | 11. Luxembourg             |
| 4. Chile      | 12. Nigeria                |
| 5. Ecuador    | 13. San Marino             |
| 6. India      | 14. Senegal                |
| 7. Jordan     | 15. Thailand               |
| 8. Kazakhstan | 16. Ukraine                |

*Note: since these countries have submitted CBM returns in recent years, it would be relatively easy for them to submit an updated return for 2009. The Implementation Support Unit can provide further advice on this.*

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