

Geneva, 20 November-8 December 2006

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the operation of the Convention
as provided for in its article XII**

**SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
ARTICLE X**

**Submitted by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica,
Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay**

1. The use of all peaceful applications of biotechnology for economic and technological development constitutes a right of States parties under the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (the Biological Weapons Convention).
2. From this perspective, the importance of promoting scientific cooperation and technology transfer in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Biological Weapons Convention is to be underscored.
3. Scientific cooperation and technology transfer constitute important incentives for the universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention - hence the need to intensify them and to call on the States parties to consider the following recommendations:
 - (i) They should fully implement the agreements reached by previous Review Conferences, as well as the Special Conference of the parties to the Biological Weapons Convention;
 - (ii) They should ensure scientific cooperation and technology transfer in peaceful activities such as those related to public health, agriculture, farming and animal husbandry;
 - (iii) They should develop efficient coordination mechanisms between the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, in order to facilitate scientific cooperation and technology transfer;
 - (iv) They should report annually on steps taken in the area of scientific cooperation and technology transfer;

- (v) They should reiterate the request made to the United Nations Secretary-General to collect from and distribute among States parties, on a yearly basis, information on the implementation of article X of the Biological Weapons Convention, and on decisions adopted by the Review Conferences;
- (vi) They should encourage the adoption of measures to create networks between scientific communities and the academic sector regarding the peaceful use of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other areas related to the Biological Weapons Convention;
- (vii) They should support the establishment of procedures to assist States parties which request such assistance under article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention;
- (viii) They should review the procedures for consultation and cooperation under article V of the Biological Weapons Convention;
- (ix) They should create a database containing information on opportunities for international cooperation and technology transfer.
