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**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**

**FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM**

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

1. Although the ad hoc mechanism used in the period between the fifth and sixth review conferences of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (the Biological Weapons Convention) has been useful for exchanging information and experience on some topics, it has suffered from limitations as regards the implementation of all the obligations contained in the Convention.
2. In order to remedy this situation, we invite the Review Conference to establish a flexible ad hoc follow-up mechanism for the period between the sixth and seventh review conferences of the Biological Weapons Convention. This mechanism would:
  - (i) Support annual meetings of governmental experts (one week) and of States parties (two weeks);
  - (ii) Analyse, in meetings of governmental experts, developments in the fields of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other related areas that may have an impact on the work of the Biological Weapons Convention;
  - (iii) Examine systematically, in meetings of the States parties, the preamble as well as the operative section of the Biological Weapons Convention, as well as the work of the preceding meeting of governmental experts, if any, and specify the subjects to be discussed at the next meeting of governmental experts;
  - (iv) Discuss, at the first meeting of governmental experts, the following subjects: ...;
  - (v) Have, during the meetings of the States parties, the capacity to adopt decisions which provide a response to any challenges facing the Biological Weapons Convention;
  - (vi) Facilitate the work of the follow-up mechanism through the Support Unit.

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