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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**

**SUPPORT UNIT**

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

1. A support mechanism is needed to assist States parties in their preparatory work between the review conferences of 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), and to extend their functions.
2. With this perspective, the Review Conference is invited to create a permanent support unit/secretariat, whose main functions will be:
  - (i) To analyse the information received from the States parties in their reports;
  - (ii) To provide assistance to States parties on request in the submission of their reports;
  - (iii) To provide assistance to States parties on request in the adaptation of their domestic legislation;
  - (iv) To develop a database on national standards and legislation related to topics covered in the Biological Weapons Convention;
  - (v) To devise a mechanism for the management of confidential information;
  - (vi) To prepare documentation for the meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention;

- (vii) To provide support to the Chairman and the States parties at meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention in the form of advice on technical and procedural issues;
- (viii) To take steps designed to promote universalization;
- (ix) To facilitate links between States parties and the depositaries, international organizations, scientific and academic institutions and non-governmental organizations;
- (x) To update the Biological Weapons Convention website.

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