
Geneva, 20 November – 8 December 2006

Item 10 of the agenda

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

**INTERSESSIONAL AD HOC MECHANISM, TO BE ESTABLISHED
BETWEEN THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCES
OF THE BWC**

Submitted by the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement
and other States

1. Referring to the possible new intersessional ad hoc mechanism of the Convention, to be established between the Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences, the Group of States of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) made the following comments during its opening statement in the general debate of the Sixth Review Conference:

- (i) Although the ad hoc mechanism adopted at the Fifth Review Conference was useful for exchanging information and experiences on certain aspects, it was limited in its scope for examining the full implementation of the Convention's obligations. Therefore, and in light of the challenges and risks posed by rapid developments in the field of biological science, it will be pertinent for this Review Conference to consider and decide on future measures that could further strengthen the effectiveness and improve the implementation of the Convention in its entirety.
- (ii) The Group reiterates that the BWC forms a composite whole and that, while it is possible to address related issues separately, it is necessary for all the interlinked elements of the Convention to be dealt with in a balanced and comprehensive manner, whether they relate to regulation, compliance or promotion.
- (iii) Any new follow-up mechanism for the Sixth Review Conference should be comprehensive enough to allow an evaluation of the Convention in its entirety. It should take advantage of all the experiences accumulated so far by the States Parties in the framework of the Convention.

2. Although the Group of States of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC maintains its conviction that the multilateral negotiations aimed at concluding a non-discriminatory, legally binding agreement is the only sustainable method of strengthening the Convention, it recognizes however the value of the intersessional ad hoc mechanism for promoting the objectives of the Convention.

3. Therefore, the Group of States of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC supports the holding of four annual meetings of the governmental experts and of States Parties of one week's duration each, commencing in 2007 until the Seventh Review Conference, to be held not later than the end of 2011, and to consider the following issues:

- (i) Advances in life sciences and biotechnology and their relevance to the implementation of the Convention, in particular Article I;
- (ii) Ways and means to enhance national implementation;
- (iii) Review of the implementation of confidence-building measures;
- (iv) Practical and concrete measures to facilitate scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges for peaceful purposes in pursuance of Article X;
- (v) Disease surveillance, including international cooperation in improving health-care infrastructures and systems;
- (vi) Promotion of universalisation of the Convention;
- (vii) Education and raising awareness of the biological risks in national populations.

4. The Group of States of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC expresses its willingness to consider other proposals that may be presented by States Parties to the Convention.
