

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**

UNIVERSALIZATION

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

1. The universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction is of fundamental importance in fully achieving its objectives and purposes. Achieving universality contributes to strengthening the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
2. To achieve universalization, all States parties must demonstrate political will.
3. In this regard, the Review Conference is invited to consider the following recommendations:
 - (a) It should welcome the fact that, since the last Review Conference, the Governments of Mali, Antigua and Barbuda, Palau, Timor-Leste, the Sudan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan have acceded to the Biological Weapons Convention or deposited their instruments of ratification, bringing the number of States parties to 155;
 - (b) It should call upon States that have not yet adhered to or ratified the Biological Weapons Convention to do so without delay;
 - (c) It should call upon States to withdraw all the reservations made to the 1925 Geneva Protocol in order to strengthen the norm that prohibits the use of biological weapons;
 - (d) It should underline the importance of promoting international cooperation and technology transfer as incentives to achieve universality;

(e) It should adopt an action plan to facilitate universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention, including:

- (i) Authorizing the Support Unit to take action to promote universalization, including:
 - Scheduling of activities that enhance the interest of non-parties;
 - Provision of assistance to States that request it in adapting their legislation to allow them to speed up their process of ratifying or acceding to the Biological Weapons Convention;
 - Efforts to promote the participation of non-parties in regional meetings and other events related to the Biological Weapons Convention.
- (ii) Securing a commitment by States parties to intensify their efforts to achieve the universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention, through bilateral means as well as within the framework of regional and multilateral meetings. These efforts might include the exchange of information concerning legislative experience between States parties and non-parties;
- (iii) Inviting States parties to appoint a focal point responsible for coordinating actions aimed at securing the universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention. A report on these actions should be presented to the other States parties at annual meetings.
