

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND  
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

BWC/MSP/2005/MX/CRP.1  
23 June 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

**Third Meeting  
Geneva, 5-9 December 2005**

**Meeting of Experts  
Geneva, 13-24 June 2005**

Item 6 of the agenda

**Adoption of the factual report describing the work of the Meeting**

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS**

Introduction

1. The Final Document of the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC/CONF.V/17), in the section dealing with Decisions and Recommendations, contained the following decision:

“The Conference decided, by consensus, as follows:

- (a) To hold three annual meetings of the States Parties of one week duration each year commencing in 2003 until the Sixth Review Conference, to be held not later than the end of 2006, to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on:
  - i. the adoption of necessary national measures to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Convention, including the enactment of penal legislation;
  - ii. national mechanisms to establish and maintain the security and oversight of pathogenic microorganisms and toxins;
  - iii. enhancing international capabilities for responding to, investigating and mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of disease;
  - iv. strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals, and plants;
  - v. the content, promulgation, and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists.

- (b) All meetings, both of experts and of States Parties, will reach any conclusions or results by consensus.
- (c) Each meeting of the States Parties will be prepared by a two week meeting of experts. The topics for consideration at each annual meeting of States Parties will be as follows: items i and ii will be considered in 2003; items iii and iv in 2004; item v in 2005. The first meeting will be chaired by a representative of the Eastern Group, the second by a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned and Other States, and the third by a representative of the Western Group.
- (d) The meetings of experts will prepare factual reports describing their work.
- (e) The Sixth Review Conference will consider the work of these meetings and decide on any further action.”

2. In accordance with the decision of the Fifth Review Conference, the 2003 Meeting of States Parties was convened in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 2003, and was preceded by a Meeting of Experts held in Geneva from 18 to 29 August 2003. The 2004 Meeting of States Parties was convened in Geneva from 6 to 10 December 2004, and was preceded by a Meeting of Experts held in Geneva from 19 to 30 July 2004. The 2004 Meeting of States Parties approved the nomination by the Western Group of Ambassador John Freeman of the United Kingdom as Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2005. The 2004 Meeting of States Parties decided that the 2005 Meeting of Experts would be held in Geneva from 13 to 24 June 2005, and that the 2005 Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from 5 to 9 December 2005.<sup>1</sup>

3. By resolution 59/110, adopted without a vote on 10 December 2004, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the United Nations Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, including all necessary assistance to the annual meetings of the States Parties and the meetings of experts.

#### Organization of the Meeting of Experts

4. In accordance with the decisions of the Fifth Review Conference and the 2004 Meeting of States Parties, the 2005 Meeting of Experts was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 13 to 24 June 2005, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador John Freeman of the United Kingdom.

5. At its first meeting, the Meeting of Experts adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2005/MX/1) and programme of work (BWC/MSP/2005/MX/2) as proposed by the Chairman. The Chairman also drew the attention of delegations to four background papers prepared by the Secretariat (BWC/MSP/2005/MX/INF.1, /INF.2, /INF.3 and /INF.4).

---

<sup>1</sup> See BWC/MSP/2004/3

6. At the same meeting, following a suggestion by the Chairman, the Meeting of Experts adopted as its rules of procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Fifth Review Conference, as contained in Annex II of the Final Document of the Review Conference (BWC/CONF.V/17).

7. Mr. Valère Mantels, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, was in charge of the BWC issues in the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Mr. Richard Lennane, Political Affairs Officer, served as Secretary of the Meeting of Experts. Ms. Melissa Hersh and Dr. Piers Millett, Associate Political Officers, served in the Secretariat.

#### Participation at the Meeting of Experts

8. Eighty-two States Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting of Experts as follows: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, Yemen.

9. In addition, three States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Meeting of Experts without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the rules of procedure: Egypt, Madagascar, Syrian Arab Republic.

10. One state, Israel, neither Party nor Signatory to the Convention, participated in the Meeting of Experts as an observer, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a).

11. The United Nations, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), attended the Meeting of Experts in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

12. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) were granted observer status to participate in the Meeting of Experts in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

13. In addition, at the invitation of the Chairman, in recognition of the special nature of the topic under consideration at this Meeting and without creating a precedent, 23 scientific,

professional, academic and industry bodies participated in informal exchanges in the open sessions as guests of the Meeting of Experts.

14. Sixteen non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of Experts under rule 44, paragraph 5.

15. A list of all participants in the Meeting of Experts is contained in document BWC/MSP/2005/MX/INF.6.

#### Work of the Meeting of Experts

16. The Meeting of Experts held two public meetings, on 13 and 24 June respectively, five open sessions, and ... working sessions. In accordance with the programme of work (BWC/MSP/2005/MX/2), on 13 June the Meeting of Experts heard introductory statements from 11 States Parties during the first open session, and presentations from seven international intergovernmental organizations and one State Party during the second open session. On 14 June, two open sessions were devoted to consideration of government science, during which the Meeting heard a total of ... presentations and statements from States Parties and ... presentations and statements from guests of the Meeting. The three remaining open sessions, held between 15 and 20 June, were devoted to expert contributions, including from universities, funders, research, publishers, industry and professional bodies. During these sessions, the Meeting heard ... presentations and statements from States Parties and ... presentations and statements from guests of the Meeting.

17. The three working sessions held between 15 and 20 June were devoted to discussion of issues relating to universities, funders, research, publishers, industry and professional bodies. During these sessions, the Meeting heard ... presentations and statements from States Parties. The three working sessions held on 21 and 22 June were devoted to, respectively, issues relating to the content of codes of conduct; issues relating to the promulgation and adoption of codes of conduct; and other issues relating to codes of conduct. During these sessions, the Meeting heard ... presentations and statements from States Parties.

18. The Chairman, under his own responsibility and initiative, prepared a paper listing considerations, lessons, perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals drawn from the presentations, statements, working papers and interventions on the topics under discussion at the Meeting. The Meeting of Experts noted that this paper had no status; that it had not been discussed; that it could not be considered as being complete; that the appearance of any consideration, lesson, perspective, recommendation, conclusion or proposal in the paper did not in any way indicate or imply that States Parties agreed with it; and that it should not necessarily form a basis for future deliberations. The Meeting of Experts noted that it was the Chairman's view that the paper could assist delegations in their preparations for the Meeting of States Parties in December 2005 and in its consideration of how best to "discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on" the topic in accordance with the decision of the Fifth Review Conference.

19. The paper prepared by the Chairman is attached as Annex ... to this Report.

20. In the course of its work, the Meeting of Experts was able to draw on a number of working papers submitted by States Parties, as well as on statements and presentations made by States Parties, Observer Organizations and guests of the Meeting, which were circulated in the Meeting.

#### Documentation

21. A complete list of official documents of the Meeting of Experts, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in Annex ... to this Report. All documents on this list are available on the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), accessible on the internet at <http://documents.un.org>.

#### Conclusion of the Meeting of Experts

22. At its closing meeting on 24 June 2005, the Meeting of Experts noted that the Chairman would prepare the provisional agenda and programme of work for approval and adoption at the Meeting of States Parties to be held from 5 to 9 December 2005.

23. At the same meeting, the Meeting of Experts adopted its Report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2005/MX/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2005/MX/3.

---