

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SIXTH
REVIEW CONFERENCE 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/CONF.VI/PC/CRP.1
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ENGLISH ONLY

Geneva, 26-28 April 2006

Item 8 of the agenda

Report of the Preparatory Committee to the Review Conference

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

I. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ORGANIZATION

Introduction

1. The Final Report of the Fifth Review Conference 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/CONF.V/17), in the section on decisions and recommendations, contained the following decision:

“... the Conference decided that the Sixth Review Conference would be held in Geneva in 2006, and would be preceded by a Preparatory Committee”.

2. By resolution 60/96, adopted without a vote on 8 December 2005, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, noted that, in accordance with the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference, the Sixth Review Conference would be held in Geneva in 2006 and the dates would be formally agreed by the preparatory committee for that Conference, which would be open to all States parties to the Convention and which would meet in Geneva during the week beginning 24 April 2006. The Meeting of States Parties to the Convention held in Geneva from 5 to 9 December 2005 decided that the Preparatory Committee would be held in Geneva from 26 to 28 April 2006.

Organization of the Preparatory Committee

3. In accordance with these decisions, the Preparatory Committee convened and held ... meetings in Geneva from 26 to 28 April 2006. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Tim Caughley, Director of the Geneva Branch, Department for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Preparatory Committee.

4. At its first meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation Ambassador Masood Khan (Pakistan) as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

5. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee unanimously elected Ambassador Doru-Romulus Costea (Romania) and Mr. Knut Langeland (Norway) as Vice-Chairmen of the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee authorized the Bureau to handle technical and other matters in the period before the Review Conference was convened.
6. The Preparatory Committee decided to take its decisions by consensus.
7. The Preparatory Committee decided to use Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages.
8. Mr. Richard Lennane, Political Affairs Officer, Geneva Branch, Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Piers Millett and Ms. Melissa Hersh served in the Secretariat.

Participation in the Preparatory Committee

9. Seventy-eight States Parties to the Convention participated in the Preparatory Committee as follows: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yemen
10. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of their written requests, decided to invite the representatives of six States Signatories of the Convention, Egypt, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, Syrian Arab Republic and United Arab Emirates, to participate in its discussions without the right to take part in the making of decisions.
11. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of a written request and in accordance with the draft rule 44, paragraph 2, decided to invite the representative of one State not party to the Convention, Israel, to participate as an Observer.
12. The United Nations, including the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), attended the Preparatory Committee in accordance with the draft rule 44, paragraph 3.
13. Eleven non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended public meetings of the Preparatory Committee in accordance with the draft rule 44, paragraph 5.
14. A list of all participants in the Preparatory Committee is contained in document BWC/CONF.VI/PC/INF.2.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE REVIEW CONFERENCE

15. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend to the Sixth Review Conference that Ambassador Masood Khan (Pakistan) preside over the Conference. The Preparatory Committee also agreed to recommend to the Sixth Review Conference the following distribution of posts of Vice-presidents of the Conference, and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies, among the various Regional Groups:

Vice-presidents:	Ten from the Group of Non-Aligned and other States Six from the Western Group Four from the Group of Eastern European States
Committee of the Whole:	Chairman Group of Eastern European States Vice-Chairman Group of Non-Aligned and other States Vice-Chairman Western Group
Drafting Committee:	Chairman Western Group Vice-Chairman Group of Eastern European States Vice-Chairman Group of Non-Aligned and other States
Credentials Committee:	Chairman Group of Non-Aligned and other States Vice-Chairman Western Group

16. The Preparatory Committee considered the following questions relating to the organization of the Review Conference:

- (a) Date and duration
- (b) Provisional agenda
- (c) Draft rules of procedure
- (d) Background documentation
- (e) Publicity
- (f) Final document(s)
- (g) Appointment of a provisional Secretary-General
- (h) Financial arrangements for the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference

Date and duration

17. The Preparatory Committee decided that the Sixth Review Conference should take place in Geneva from 20 November to 8 December 2006.

Provisional Agenda

18. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend to the Sixth Review Conference the provisional agenda as contained in The provisional agenda, as approved by the Preparatory Committee, is attached to this report as Annex I.

Draft Rules of Procedure

19. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend as the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Sixth Review Conference the Rules of Procedure of the Fifth Review Conference, as contained in document BWC/CONF.V/PC/L.1. The Draft Rules of Procedure, as approved by the Preparatory Committee, are attached to this report as Annex II.

Background documentation

20. The Preparatory Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare five background information documents as follows:

- (a) A background information document on the history and operation of the confidence-building measures agreed at the Second Review Conference and revised at the Third Review Conference. The document should include a summary of the development of the confidence-building measures, an overview of the role of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs in administering the measures, and data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the measures since the last Review Conference;
- (b) A background information document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention. For the purpose of compiling this document, the Secretariat would request States Parties to provide information regarding compliance with all the provisions of the Convention, including any actions taken following the Meetings of Experts and Meetings of States Parties held from 2003-2005;
- (c) A background information document on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties as well as from information provided by relevant international organisations and research carried out by the Secretariat;
- (d) A background information document on developments since the last Review Conference in other international forums which may be relevant to the Convention, including the revised International Health Regulations of the World Health Organization, and Security Council Resolution 1540.
- (e) A background information document showing the additional understandings and agreements reached by previous Review Conferences relating to each article of the Convention, extracted from the respective Final Declarations of these conferences.

21. The Preparatory Committee also decided that all background documentation should be circulated not later than four weeks before the opening of the Conference.

Publicity

22. The Preparatory Committee decided to request the Secretariat to issue press releases for the meetings of the Review Conference.

Final document(s)

23. With respect to the question of final document(s) of the Review Conference, the Preparatory Committee decided to include an appropriate item in the provisional agenda of the Conference (see Annex I).

Appointment of a provisional Secretary-General

24. In accordance with draft Rule 10 providing for a Secretary-General of the Review Conference, the Preparatory Committee decided to invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations to nominate an official to act on behalf of the Preparatory Committee as provisional Secretary-General of the Review Conference, the nominee to be confirmed by the Review Conference in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Financial arrangements for the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference

25. The Preparatory Committee noted that the estimated costs for the Preparatory Committee and the Sixth Review Conference, as contained in BWC/MSP/2005/INF.1, had been approved by the Meeting of States Parties on 9 December 2005 (see BWC/MSP/2005/3, paragraph 26). The Preparatory Committee encouraged States Parties to pay their assessed contributions without delay.

III. DOCUMENTATION

26. A complete list of official documents of the Preparatory Committee is contained in Annex III 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>.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

27. At its final meeting, on 28 April, the Preparatory Committee adopted its Report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/CONF.V/PC/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/CONF.V/PC/2.
