

Ninth 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

24 October 2022

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Geneva, 28 November – 16 December 2022

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the Ninth Review Conference

Submitted by the President-Designate

1. Opening of the Conference

The Ninth Review Conference will open on 28 November 2022 at 10:00 in Room XIX at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

2. Election of the President

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Draft Rules of Procedure, the Conference shall elect its President. The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend to the Ninth Review Conference that Mr. Leonardo Bencini, Ambassador of Italy, preside over the Conference, on the understanding that the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC decided to retain its rotational right to preside over the Tenth Review Conference.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend to the Ninth Review Conference the draft provisional agenda which is contained in document BWC/CONF.IX/1.

4. Submission of the final report of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee agreed its report on 11 April 2022 which is contained in document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/10.

5. Adoption of the rules of procedure

The Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend as the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Ninth Review Conference the Rules of Procedure of the Eighth Review Conference, which are contained in document BWC/CONF.IX/2.

6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee

According to Rule 5 of the Draft Rules of Procedure, the Conference shall elect the following officers: a President and 20 Vice-Presidents as well as a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen for the Committee of the Whole, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Drafting Committee and a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Credentials Committee. In addition, the Preparatory Committee agreed to recommend that, with respect to Rule 5, the Review Conference should elect a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen of the Drafting Committee. The Preparatory Committee further agreed to recommend that the General Committee referred to in Rule 8 should be



composed of the President of the Review Conference, the 20 Vice-Presidents, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Drafting Committee, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Credentials Committee, to be elected in accordance with Rule 5, the three Regional Group Coordinators, and the Depositories.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

(a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Conference shall establish a Credentials Committee composed of the Chairman, one Vice-Chairman elected in accordance with rule 5, and five members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

As required by Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

8. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General

In accordance with Rule 10 of the Draft Rules of Procedure, there shall be a Secretary-General of the Conference. She/he shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference, its committees and other appropriate bodies established under rule 34, and may designate a member of the secretariat to act in her/his place at these meetings. 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.

9. Programme of work

A programme of work will be distributed at a later stage as document BWC/CONF.IX/3.

10. Review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in its article XII

(a) General debate

To facilitate interpretation, a copy of each statement must be sent to speeches@un.org before delivery. Delegations wishing their statements to be posted on the BWC website should also send a copy to bwc@un.org. A representative may make a speech in a language other than a language of the Conference if he/she provides for interpretation into one such language. Interpretation into the other languages of the Conference by interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

(b) Articles I-XV

In order to facilitate consideration of this agenda sub-item, the Preparatory Committee decided to request the Implementation Support Unit to prepare the following four background information documents: (i) on the history and operation of the confidence-building measures agreed at the Second Review Conference and revised at the Third and Seventh Review Conferences (issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/3); (ii) on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties (to be issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/4); (iii) on the implementation of Article VII, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties (to be issued as document BWC/CONF.IX.5); and (iv) on the implementation of Article X, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties (to be issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/6).

(c) Preambular paragraphs and purposes of the Convention

11. Consideration of issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in its article XII and any possible consensus follow-up action

In order to facilitate consideration of this agenda sub-item, the Preparatory Committee decided to request the Implementation Support Unit to prepare the following two background information documents: (i) on 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 (issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/5); and (ii) on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention (to be issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/7).

12. Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the Eighth Review Conference and the question of future review of the Convention

In order to facilitate consideration of this agenda sub-item, the Preparatory Committee decided to request the Implementation Support Unit to prepare background information documents on the following three topics: (i) the common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2017 to 2020 (issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/6); (ii) The overall financial status of the Convention and financial implications of proposals for follow-on action after the Ninth Review Conference (issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/4); and (iii) the status of universalization of the Convention (issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/7). In addition, the Implementation Support Unit prepared a report on its activities to implement its mandate from 2017 to 2022 which was issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/8.

13. Other matters

14. Report of the Committee of the Whole

In accordance with Rule 35, the Conference shall establish a Committee of the Whole to consider in detail the substantive issues relevant to the Convention with a view to facilitating the work of the Conference. The Committee of the Whole is expected to report on the results of its consideration of those issues that the Conference refers to it.

15. Report of the Drafting Committee

In accordance with Rule 36, the Conference shall establish a Drafting Committee composed of representatives of the same States which are represented on the General Committee. It shall coordinate the drafting of and edit all texts referred to it by the Conference. It shall also, without reopening substantive discussion on any matter, formulate drafts and give advice on drafting as requested by the Conference. The Drafting Committee is expected to report on the results of its consideration of those issues that the Conference refers to it.

16. Preparation and adoption of the final document(s)

The Preparatory Committee decided to include an appropriate item in the provisional agenda of the Review Conference for the adoption of its final document.

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.
