

Eighth 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

8 August 2016

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Preparatory Committee

Geneva, 26-27 April and 8-12 August 2016

Item 7 of the agenda

Comprehensive consideration of all provisions of the Convention

Functional structures of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

Submitted by South Africa

Introduction

1. Article XII of the Convention provided for a Review Conference 5 years after entry into force of the Convention, but there is no provision for any further structures to be utilised by States Parties in the implementation of the Convention.
2. The intersessional process was introduced through a decision of the extended Fifth Review Conference in November 2002. This process took a semi-permanent nature due to decisions by subsequent Review Conferences.
3. It is proposed that the Eighth Review Conference formalise these structures.

Review conference (Rev Con)

4. The following is proposed:
 - (a) The Rev Con is the highest decision making body for the Convention.
 - (b) The Rev Con takes place every 5 years in accordance with the decision taken at the 6th Rev Con.
 - (c) A special conference can be established when a majority of States Parties submit proposal for such a conference to the Depositary Governments in terms of Article XII of the Convention
 - (d) All decisions of a substantive nature regarding the implementation of the Convention shall be taken by the Rev Con.
 - (e) The Rev Con may mandate subsidiary bodies or establish ad hoc bodies to make proposals/decisions for decision/ratification at a following Rev Con.

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- (f) The Rev Con should provide budgetary guidelines for the intersessional period until the next Rev Con.
- (g) The Rules of Procedure that have been utilised by previous Rev Cons shall be utilised by all future Rev Cons.

Meeting of States Parties (MSP)

- 5. The following is proposed:
 - (a) The MSP is mandated by the Review Conference and, therefore, it reports to the Rev Con.
 - (b) The MSP takes place annually except during years that the Rev Con takes place.
 - (c) The MSP is responsible for the management of the intersessional programme as mandated by the Rev Con.
 - (d) The MSP manages the budget of the intersessional period within the guidelines provided by the Rev Con.
 - (e) The MSP will consider the reports of subsidiary intersessional meetings and provide guidance for follow-up work.
 - (f) The MSP may make proposals to the Rev Con in terms of the mandate received from the Rev Con.
 - (g) The MSP will take decisions by consensus and if there is no consensus, the proposals should be reflected as such and referred to the Rev Con, as the Rev Con is the highest decision making body.

Subsidiary intersessional meetings

- 6. The following is proposed:
 - (a) Subsidiary intersessional meetings may take the form of Meetings of Experts of States Parties (MXP) or other meetings such as open ended working groups, as mandated by the Rev Con.
 - (b) The subsidiary intersessional meetings report to the MSP and are guided by the MSP for follow-up work.

Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

- 7. It is proposed that the ISU must:
 - (a) Provide secretarial services to the Rev Con, MSP, subsidiary intersessional meetings and other Ad Hoc Bodies that may be established by the Rev Con.
 - (b) Provide support to the Chairpersons of the MSP and other bodies in the execution of their tasks.
 - (c) Provide support to States Parties in the implementation of the Convention as required.
 - (d) Manage databases established by the Rev Con.

- (e) Receive and manage annual CBM Declarations by States Parties.
 - (f) Draft background documentation as required.
 - (g) Have sufficient personnel. Its annual budget must be in line with the tasking done by the Rev Con and is managed by the MSP.
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