

**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**

11 August 2016

English only

Preparatory Committee

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

Item 7 of the agenda

Comprehensive consideration of all provisions of the Convention

**Proposal for the Development of the Template of Biological
Scientist Code of Conduct under the Framework of
Biological Weapons Convention**

Submitted by China and Pakistan

1. With the aim to prevent abuse and misuse of bioscience and technology, fulfil the aims and objectives of the Convention and strengthen global biosecurity governance, China has proposed the development of a template of biological scientist code of conduct within the framework of the Convention in December 2015, and has submitted a working paper.
2. Since the 2015 Meeting of States Parties, China has conducted broad and in-depth discussion with other States Parties on this proposal. Many States have indicated support for China's proposal and provided constructive opinion and suggestions. The Report of 2015 Meeting of States Parties *noted the value of considering a template for voluntary codes of conduct for scientists in the fields relevant to the Convention.*
3. Biological researchers are not only the front line of bio-science and technology development, but also the primary defense to prevent bio-technological misuse. Codes of conduct for bioscientists is important for raising biosecurity awareness, coping with biosecurity risks and preventing abuse and misuse of biotechnology. States Parties, such as Netherlands, have established their code of conduct for scientists. Chile, Spain, Italy and several other states have co-sponsored two working papers (BWC/MSP/2012/WP/9, BWC/MSP/2014/WP.6), calling upon States Parties *to establish a scientific practice code of conduct directed at improving the custody of biological agents and the vectors thereof on the part of the scientific community that works with biological agents and toxins in the different States Parties to the BWC.*
4. Developing the template of biological scientists code of conduct under the BWC will facilitate the States Parties to establish and improve their own code of conduct combined with their own national conditions. It will also help raise biosecurity awareness of scientists on a worldwide scale, and enhance BWC's role in guiding and regulating biological research activities.
5. Hereby, States Parties should:

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(a) Fully exchange of views on the issue “the development of the template of biological scientist code of conduct under the framework of the BWC” under relevant agenda of the Eighth Review Conference.

(b) Promote the Eighth Review Conference to authorize the following inter-sessional process to discuss and approve it. The arrangement is open to be discussed and agreed upon. States Parties could establish an open-ended working group on this issue, or discuss it as one of the topics within the process of reviewing developments in science and technology.

(c) Guarantee the discussing process carried out in an open and transparent manner, with the full representation of the States Parties, and invite relevant governmental officials as well as bioscientists and researchers to participate in drafting process.

(d) Make full use of the existing codes of conduct for scientists produced by States Parties and relevant international organizations, and conduct step by step discussion principles, legal status, structure and detailed provisions of the template.
