

**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**

16 December 2015

English only

2015 Meeting  
Geneva, 14-18 December 2015  
Item 9 of the agenda  
Standing agenda item:  
Strengthening national implementation

**Proposal for inclusion in the final document of the Eighth  
Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention**

**Submitted by Armenia, Belarus, China and the Russian Federation**

**Part 3  
Decisions and Recommendations**

*Strengthening the Convention*

**The Conference,**

*Recognising* the importance of strengthening the effectiveness and improving the implementation of the Convention and recalling that to that end the Special Conference of 1994 approved the relevant negotiating mandate (paragraph 36 of document BWC/SPCONF/1) having established in that regard the negotiating organ, the Ad Hoc Group,

*Recalling* that the Ad Hoc Group from 1995-2001 carried out a significant amount of work, but since 2001 it has been suspended due to the lack of agreement on the implementation of certain elements of the negotiating mandate,

*Emphasising* that this decision is without prejudice to the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group nor does it supersede, supplant or change it,

*Stressing* a timely necessity of resuming substantive work to strengthen the Convention on a realistic basis,

**Hereby,**

1. *Decides* to establish an Open-ended working group open to all States Parties sharing its objective. The objective of this Open-ended working group shall be to elaborate on a basis of consensus appropriate measures and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States Parties. In this context the Open-ended working group shall consider the following:



- (a) the incorporation of existing and potentially further enhanced confidence building and transparency measures, as appropriate, into the regime;
  - (b) measures to achieve effective national implementation of the Convention;
  - (c) measures for considering the implications of developments in areas of science and technology relevant to the Convention and agreeing in that regard appropriate steps to enhance the effective implementation of the Convention;
  - (d) measures for strengthening international co-operation for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article X of the Convention;
  - (e) procedures and mechanisms for assistance and protection against biological weapons in accordance with Article VII of the Convention;
  - (f) mechanism for investigating alleged use of biological weapons (to be initiated by the affected State and conducted on its territory) pursuant to Article VI of the Convention.
2. *Stresses* that the measures should be formulated and implemented in a manner designed to avoid any negative impact on scientific research, international co-operation and industrial development;
3. *Also decides* that the first session of the open-ended working group should be held in Geneva from [...] 2017. The session will be devoted to procedural matters and will decide the group's methods of work, including the adoption, by consensus, of its rules of procedure. The group will hold additional sessions as appropriate. It will complete its work as soon as possible and submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States Parties, to be considered at the Special Conference or the Ninth Review Conference. The group will be chaired by its Chairman who will be assisted by two Vice-Chairs, to be elected by the group;
4. *Requests* the Convention's Secretariat (the Implementation Support Unit) to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the convening and activities of the Open-ended working group.
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