

**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**

3 December 2018

English only

2018 Meeting

Geneva, 4–7 December 2018

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting
their deliberations, including possible outcomes**

**Report of the Regional Workshop for Central Asian States
Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention on scientific
and practical implementation issues (Almaty, Kazakhstan,
23-24 October 2018)**

Submitted by Kazakhstan, co-sponsored by Germany

I. Introduction

1. From 23 to 24 October 2018, the governments of Kazakhstan and the Federal Republic of Germany and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit (ISU) co-organized a regional workshop for Central Asian States Parties to the BWC on scientific and practical implementation issues. The event was held at the Central Reference Laboratory at the Masgut Aikimbayev Kazakh Scientific Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

2. The activity brought together thirty participants from five BWC States Parties (Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), three regional and international organizations (International Science and Technology Center, Group of Experts/Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe), and one non-governmental organization (Verification Research, Training and Information Centre). While the venue was provided by the government of Kazakhstan, the German Federal Foreign Office provided funding for travel and accommodation for sponsored participants.

3. The two-day workshop served as a platform for dialogue on the implementation of the Convention. The event helped to share information regarding national implementation approaches and best practices among the participants in an interactive manner and also explored opportunities for cooperation and assistance among the States Parties as well as with relevant international and regional organizations.

II. Workshop Proceedings

4. The activity was opened by representatives of the workshop co-organizers. Mr. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, welcomed participants on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Consul General Jörn Rosenberg spoke on behalf of the German Federal



Foreign Office, and Dr. Alex Lampalzer, Deputy Chief of the BWC ISU made opening remarks on behalf of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

5. The Regional Workshop consisted of four main sessions:

(a) Introduction

- i. Introduction of the Central Reference Laboratory/M. Aikimbayev Kazakh Scientific Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases;
- ii. Introductory overview about the BWC);

(b) National Implementation

- i. Implementation issues at the national level;
- ii. Sharing best practices on the domestic implementation of the BWC;
- iii. Synergies between the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and the BWC;
- iv. Confidence Building Measures under the BWC;
- v. Best Practices of CBMs;
- vi. Initiatives to enhance transparency and build confidence; national legislation);
- vii. National legislation;

(d) Cooperation and Assistance

- i. Opportunities for cooperation and assistance;
- ii. Opportunities for bilateral discussions between Central Asian experts and representatives of regional/international organizations;

(e) The Way Ahead

In addition, Kazakh authorities provided a guided tour of the Central Reference Laboratory/M. Aikimbayev Kazakh Scientific Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases and shared information about its activities.

III. Workshop summary and conclusions

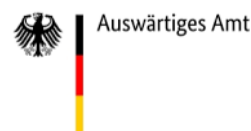
6. Participants expressed their appreciation to the governments of Kazakhstan and Germany as well as the BWC ISU for the well-organized workshop. They noted the great benefit of the two-day activity for the purpose of regional cooperation and also commended the government of Kazakhstan for the opportunity to receive a guided tour through the premises of the Central Reference Laboratory. Various participants noted that the workshop objectives were met and that the proceedings were carried out in a very constructive, open and all-inclusive manner.

7. Workshop participants stressed the importance of the Convention as one of the fundamental pillars of the multilateral disarmament regime and underlined their States Parties' full commitment to implementing its provisions. Many of the discussions centered on efforts to further enhance the domestic implementation of the Convention, including by further amending or revising existing national legislation. In this context, some experts noted the need for international technical assistance to develop the required regulatory frameworks for the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

8. Furthermore, several representatives expressed the value of bilateral, regional and international cooperation opportunities and welcomed further efforts in this regard. Some experts particularly highlighted the need for deepened cooperation among Central Asian States Parties and joint research and scientific, technical and educational projects. In this context, Kazakhstan expressed its principle readiness to host future regional training events at the Central Reference Laboratory in Almaty.

9. In view of rapid scientific and technical developments with potential relevance to the goals and objectives of the Convention, some experts underlined the benefit of establishing a scientific advisory mechanism under the Convention. Similarly, some participants acknowledged the potential value of voluntary codes of conduct for life scientists, which are again being discussed by States Parties in the current intersessional programme.

10. In the course of the workshop, several participants also recognized the threat posed by the deliberate use of biological agents, particularly from non-state actors. In the same vein, a number of experts underlined the crucial importance for preparedness and mitigation measures to address natural disease outbreaks in the region. In this context, some representatives emphasized the need for close coordination and cooperation among States Parties in response to bio-events and noted the benefits of mobile bio-medical units.



Regional Workshop for Central Asian States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention on scientific and practical implementation issues

held at the Central Reference Laboratory/M. Aikimbayev Kazakh Scientific Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 23-24 October 2018

Final Programme

Tuesday, 23 October 2018			
From	To	Topic	Presenter
08:15	09:00	Workshop Registration	
Workshop Opening			
09:00	09:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jörn Rosenberg, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Almaty, Kazakhstan	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Alex Lampalzer, Deputy Chief BWC Implementation Support Unit, UNODA	
<i>I. <u>Introduction</u></i>			
<i>Introduction of the Central Reference Laboratory/M. Aikimbayev Kazakh Scientific Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases</i>			
09:15	10:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Epidemiological situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan: risks, problems and solutions	Toktasyn Yerubayev, Khairulla Abeuov, Yerlan Sansyzbayev, Uinkul Izbanova, Berik Baimurzinov
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Measures to ensure sanitary-epidemiological welfare at the Kazakhstan part of Vozrozhdeniye island	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Production of vaccines and other immuno-bio products in the Republic of Kazakhstan	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Opportunities for joint research and international collaboration at the CRL, including expert exchange and twinning programmes	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Discussion	
<i>The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC): An introductory overview</i>			
10:05	10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction to the BWC (including rights and obligations of States Parties)	Alex Lampalzer, BWC ISU
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The 2018-2020 Intersessional Process	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ BWC related meetings in 2018	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Implementation of the BWC in Central Asia	

Tuesday, 23 October 2018			
From	To	Topic	Presenter
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges in national implementation Discussion 	
10:50	11:20	Coffee break / Group photo	
II. <u>National Implementation</u>			
11:20	12:30	Implementation Issues at the national level - Perspectives from natl. experts/Central Asian States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on progress made with respect to the BWC implementation Main implementation challenges from a national perspective Suggestions for the way ahead 	Bakyt Kutubayev, Kazakhstan Nazarbek Malaev, Kyrgyzstan Dilbar Alimova & Nargiza Shadmanova, Uzbekistan
12:30	13:30	Lunch break	
13:30	14:15	Sharing best practices on the domestic implementation of the BWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Role of the BWC National Contact Point Establishing inter-ministerial cooperation (incl. roles and responsibilities) Putting in place domestic legislation on the BWC Discussion 	Elisabeth Jenschke, Germany
14:15	15:00	Synergies between the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and the BWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits of 1540 National Action Plans Lessons and best practices adopted Discussion 	Gennady Lutay, Group of Experts/ 1540 Committee
15:00	15:20	Coffee break	
15:20	15:45	Confidence Building Measures under the BWC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to CBMs Overview of CBM trends and lessons from the ISU perspective Discussion 	Alex Lampalzer, BWC ISU
15:45	16:30	Best Practices in the Preparation of CBMs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of input including coordination at the national level Coordination challenges Best practices adopted Discussion 	Bakyt Kutubayev, Kazakhstan
16:30	17:30	Initiatives to enhance transparency and build confidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro on Peer Reviews and similar initiatives under the BWC Lessons from the SCR 1540 (2004) Peer Review in an extended format (Central Asia and Belarus) Information on the upcoming Peer Review Compliance Visit Exercise in Georgia in Nov. 	Alex Lampalzer, BWC ISU Anton Martyniuk, OSCE Secretariat Expert Elisabeth Jenschke, Germany

Tuesday, 23 October 2018

From	To	Topic	Presenter
		2018	
		▪ Discussion	
18:00	20:00	<i>Reception hosted by Kazakhstan</i>	

Wednesday, 24 October 2018

From	To	Topic	Presenter
		<i>National Legislation</i>	
09:00	10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress made in establishing/harmonizing national bio-safety and bio-security legal frameworks with the World Health Organisation's International Health Regulations, BWC, and Codex Alimentarius food safety laws Discussion 	Sonia Drobysz, VERTIC Madina Andreyeva, Legal Expert/P53 Alimahmad Sufiev, Tajikistan
10:40	11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
		<i>III. Cooperation and Assistance</i>	
		Opportunities for cooperation and assistance	Henk Visser, ISTC
11:00	12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance under the BWC National, regional and international cooperation and assistance opportunities and initiatives currently undertaken Discussion 	Stefan Frey, Germany Anton Martyniuk, OSCE Secretariat Expert & Gennady Lutay, Group of Experts/ 1540 Committee
12:00	13:00	<i>Opportunities for bilateral discussions between Central Asian experts and representatives of Intl. Organizations (parallel sessions)</i>	All (arrangements announced at the beginning of the workshop)
13:00	14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00	15:00	<i>Guided Tour through the Central Reference Laboratory</i>	CRL staff
		<i>IV. The Way Ahead</i>	
15:00	15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour de Table - Suggestions for follow up actions 	Moderated by Alex Lampalzer, BWC ISU
15:30	15:50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:50	16:30	<i>Workshop summary and conclusions</i>	Alex Lampalzer, BWC ISU
		<i>Closing remarks</i>	
16:30	16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jörn Rosenberg, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Almaty, Kazakhstan Alex Lampalzer, Deputy Chief BWC Implementation Support Unit, UNODA 	