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**

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2020 Meeting

Geneva, 22-25 November 2021

Report of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties^{*}

Introduction I.

- At the 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 (BWC/CONF.VIII/4), States Parties decided to hold annual meetings and that the first such meeting, in December 2017, would seek to make progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an intersessional process.
- At the Meeting of States Parties in December 2017, States Parties reached consensus on the following:
 - "(a) Reaffirming previous intersessional programmes from 2003-2015 and retaining the previous structures: annual Meetings of States Parties preceded by annual Meetings of Experts.
 - The purpose of the intersessional programme is to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on those issues identified for inclusion in the intersessional programme.
 - Recognizing the need to balance an ambition to improve the intersessional programme within the constraints – both financial and human resources – facing States Parties, twelve days are allocated to the intersessional programme each year from 2018-2020. The work in the intersessional period will be guided by the aim of strengthening the implementation of all articles of the Convention in order to better respond to current challenges. The Meetings of Experts for eight days will be held back to back and at least three months before the annual Meetings of States Parties of four days each. Maximum use would be made of the Sponsorship Programme funded by voluntary contributions in order to facilitate participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme.
 - The meetings of the MSP will be chaired by a representative of the EEG in 2018, a representative of the Western Group in 2019 and a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned Movement and Other States in 2020. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups. In addition to the reports of the Meetings of Experts, the Meetings of States Parties will consider the annual reports of the ISU and progress on universality. The Meetings of Experts will be chaired in 2018 by [the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC] (MX 1 and MX 2) and the Western Group (MX 3 and MX4), in 2019 by EEG (MX1 and MX 2) and NAM (MX 3 and MX 4), and in

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2020 by Western Group (MX 1 and MX 2) and by EEG (MX 3 and MX 4); MX 5 will be chaired by the regional group chairing the MSP.

	MSP	MX 1	MX 2	MX 3	MX 4	MX 5	
2018	EEG	NAM	NAM	WG	WG	EEG	
2019	WG	EEG	EEG	NAM	NAM	WG	
2020	NAM	WG	WG	EEG	EEG	NAM	

All meetings will be subject mutatis mutandis to the rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference.

[...]

- (f) Each Meeting of Experts will prepare for the consideration of the annual Meeting of States Parties a factual report reflecting its deliberations, including possible outcomes. All meetings, both of Experts and of States Parties will reach any conclusions or results by consensus. The Meeting of States Parties will be responsible for managing the intersessional programme, including taking necessary measures with respect to budgetary and financial matters by consensus with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the intersessional programme. The Ninth Review Conference will consider the work and outcomes it receives from the Meetings of States Parties and the Meetings of Experts and decide by consensus on any inputs from the intersessional programme and on any further action."
- 3. By resolution 75/88, adopted without a vote on 7 December 2020, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to continue to provide such services as may be required for the conduct and the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences.

II. Organization of the Meeting of States Parties

- 4. In accordance with the decisions of the Eighth Review Conference, the 2017 Meeting of States Parties and the 2019 Meeting of States Parties, the 2020 Meeting of States Parties was originally scheduled to take place from 8 to 11 December 2020. However, the Meeting was postponed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, according to the agreement by States Parties by written silence procedure¹, it was instead convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 22 to 25 November 2021, chaired by Mr. Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Office at Geneva. Mr. Robertas Rosinas, Deputy Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Mr. Thomas Göbel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament, served as the two Vice-Chairs.
- 5. At its first meeting, on 22 November 2021, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2020/1), as contained in Annex I to this report, and its programme of work (BWC/MSP/2020/2) as proposed by the Chairperson. The Chairperson drew the attention of delegations to three reports: a report on universalization activities prepared by the Chairperson (BWC/MSP/2020/3); the report of the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2020/4); and a report on the overall financial situation of the Convention prepared by the Chairperson (BWC/MSP/2020/5).

See the letters from the Chair of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties dated 28 July 2020, 23 November 2020 and 9 February 2021.

- 6. At the same meeting, following a suggestion by the Chairperson, the Meeting of States Parties adopted as its rules of procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/2.
- 7. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief, Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Meeting of States Parties. Mr. Hermann Lampalzer, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Deputy Secretary and Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, also served in the secretariat.

III. Participation at the Meeting of States Parties

- 106 delegations participated in the Meeting of States Parties as follows: Albania; Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Armenia; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Bahrain; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei Darussalam; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Croatia; Cuba; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Guatemala; Holy See; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Kuwait; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Latvia; Lebanon; Libya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Mexico; Mongolia; Montenegro; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nigeria; North Macedonia; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Romania; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Serbia; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; State of Palestine; Suriname; Sweden; Switzerland; Thailand; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); and Zambia.
- 9. In addition, two States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Meeting of States Parties without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the rules of procedure: Egypt; Syrian Arab Republic.
- 10. Four States, Chad, Djibouti, Israel and Namibia, neither parties nor signatories to the Convention, participated in the Meeting of States Parties as observers, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2.
- 11. The United Nations, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs attended the Meeting of States Parties in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.
- 12. The European Union, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Police Organization, Organization of American States, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Health Organization were granted observer status to participate in the Meeting of States Parties in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.
- 13. Thirteen non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of States Parties under rule 44, paragraph 5.
- 14. A list of all participants in the Meeting of States Parties is contained in document BWC/MSP/2020/INF.1.

IV. Work of the Meeting of States Parties

15. In accordance with the programme of work (BWC/MSP/2020/2), the Meeting of States Parties held a general debate in which the following 56 States Parties made statements: Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC); Bahrain; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Cuba; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Guatemala; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Italy; Jamaica; Japan;

Kazakhstan; Kenya; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Mexico; Nepal; Netherlands; Nigeria; Pakistan; Panama; Peru; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Serbia; South Africa; Spain; Sri Lanka; State of Palestine; Sweden; Switzerland; Thailand; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

- 16. In addition, the following signatory State made a statement: Egypt. Six observer organizations, the European Union, International Criminal Police Organization, Organization of American States, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the World Health Organization, also made statements. Following the general debate, during an informal session, the Meeting heard a joint statement endorsed by a number of non-governmental organizations and individuals and statements by seven individual non-governmental organizations.
- 17. Between 22 and 25 November 2021, the Meeting of States Parties held sessions devoted to each of the items on its agenda. The opening formalities, agenda items 1 to 4, were considered on 22 November 2021. The United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, made remarks via a pre-recorded video message. The General Debate (agenda item 5) took place on 22 and 23 November 2021. Agenda item 6 was considered on 23 and 24 November 2021. Budgetary and financial matters (agenda item 7), the progress with universalization of the Convention (agenda item 8), the annual report of the Implementation Support Unit (agenda item 9) and the arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee (agenda item 10) were all considered on 25 November 2021.
- 18. In the course of its work, the Meeting of States Parties was able to draw on a number of working papers submitted by States Parties, as well as on statements and presentations made by States Parties, international organizations and the Implementation Support Unit, which were circulated in the Meeting.
- 19. The Meeting of States Parties reviewed progress towards obtaining universality for the Convention and considered the report from the Chairperson on universalization activities (BWC/MSP/2020/3), as well as reports from States Parties on their activities to promote universalization. The States Parties reaffirmed the particular importance of the universality of the Convention and in this regard urged signatory States to ratify the Convention without delay and also urged those States that have not signed the Convention to accede without delay. In this context, the Meeting took note of the reports from States Parties and called on all States Parties to continue to promote universalization, and to support the universalization activities of the Chairperson with support from the Implementation Support Unit, in accordance with the decisions of the Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences.
- 20. The Meeting of States Parties considered the report of the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2020/4). The Meeting took note of the report and expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Unit. The Meeting called on States Parties to continue working closely with the Implementation Support Unit in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with the decision of the Eighth Review Conference.

V. Management of the intersessional programme: Budgetary and financial matters

- 21. The Meeting reviewed a report prepared by the Chairperson on the overall financial situation of the Convention (BWC/MSP/2020/5). Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, presented the status of contributions and financial outlook of the Convention on 25 November 2021.
- 22. States Parties noted the report prepared by the Chairperson and the briefing provided by the Implementation Support Unit. They stressed the need to continue monitoring the financial situation of the Convention and to explore possible further measures to stabilize it for consideration at the Ninth Review Conference. They noted the measures endorsed at the 2018 Meeting of States Parties including the establishment of the Working Capital Fund, which is to be reviewed at the Ninth Review Conference.

- 23. Further to the measures endorsed by the 2018 Meeting of States Parties, States Parties agreed the following:
- (a) as a follow-up to paragraph 21(e) of the final report of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to request the United Nations Office at Geneva to send invoices based on the cost estimates at least 90 days before the start of the financial period or 60 days after the States Parties have adopted the budget for the next financial period, whichever is later, to encourage early payment by those in a position to do so and improve liquidity; and
- (b) the credit calculation is based on the same UN assessment rates used at the time of the preparation of the preliminary assessment.

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

- 24. In accordance with the decision of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, States Parties continued at the Meetings of Experts to seek common understandings and effective action on the topics regarding the strengthening of the Convention.
- 25. The Meetings of Experts took place in Geneva and considered the topics assigned to them by the 2017 Meeting of States Parties. As reflected in the reports of each of the Meetings of Experts, they were originally scheduled to take place from 25 August to 3 September 2020. However, the Meetings were postponed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, according to the agreement by States Parties by written silence procedure2, they were instead convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 30 August to 8 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X was chaired by Mr. Kimmo Laukkanen of Finland from 30 to 31 August 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention was chaired by Mr. Kazuhiro Nakai of Japan from 1 to 2 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation was chaired by Mr. Arman Baissuanov of Kazakhstan on 3 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness was chaired by Ambassador Elena Kuzmanovska Biondic of North Macedonia from 6 to 7 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Institutional Strengthening of the Convention was chaired by Ms. Grisselle del Carmen Rodriguez Ramirez of Panama on 8 September 2021.
- 26. The Meeting of States Parties expressed its gratitude to the Chairs of the Meetings of Experts and noted the reports of the Meetings of Experts, as contained in documents BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/2, BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/2/Rev.1, BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/2, BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/2 and BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/2. The Meeting of States Parties noted the value of the work of the Meetings of Experts and the discussions that took place.
- 27. The meeting considered proposals on how to reflect the deliberations, including possible outcomes of the Meetings of Experts, but the consideration was inconclusive.
- 28. The Meeting of States Parties welcomed the substantive discussions of the Meetings of Experts. No consensus was reached on the deliberations including any possible outcomes of the Meetings of Experts.

VII. Arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee in 2021 and 2022

29. The Meeting of States Parties considered the arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee. As reflected in the reports of the 2020 Meetings of Experts and this report, the 2020 meetings were postponed several times due to the

² See the letters from the Chair of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties dated 28 July 2020, 23 November 2020 and 9 February 2021.

COVID-19 pandemic. The 2018-2020 intersessional programme could therefore not be concluded as originally planned in 2020.

- 30. In May 2021, States Parties therefore agreed by written silence procedure that several technical recommendations would be submitted for formal consideration and approval by the appropriate upcoming BWC meetings. In this regard, the Meeting of States Parties decided that the Preparatory Committee would be held in Geneva in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the BWC on 20 December 2021. It was agreed that this meeting would consider the agenda items on the organizational aspects of the Review Conference.³
- 31. While acknowledging that the Eighth Review Conference in 2016 decided that "the Ninth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2021", the Meeting of States Parties, taking into account the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, exceptionally and without setting a precedent, agreed the following technical adjustments:
 - (a) the Ninth Review Conference would be held in Geneva in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the BWC from 8 to 26 August 2022;
 - (b) the Preparatory Committee would resume its work in Geneva in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the BWC from 4 to 11 April 2022, subject to the availability of funds. It was agreed that the meeting in April 2022 would consider the agenda items on general exchange of views and provide an opportunity for States Parties to consider comprehensively all provisions of the Convention. At the conclusion of the meeting in April 2022, the Chairperson would present under their own responsibility, for consideration of delegations ahead of the Ninth Review Conference, a summary report without prejudice to perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals presented by delegations or that prejudges the final outcome of the Review Conference;
 - (c) funds for the abovementioned meetings postponed from 2021 shall be carried over to 2022 to cover the costs of the Ninth Review Conference and the meeting of its Preparatory Committee in April 2022; and
 - (d) the mandate of the Implementation Support Unit shall be extended until the Ninth Review Conference, when its mandate will be reviewed.
- 32. The Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC was invited, in accordance with established practice, to nominate the President of the Ninth Review Conference and Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee. Azerbaijan, as Coordinator of the Group, presented the nomination of Mr. Khalil Hashmi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan. The MSP considered the nomination presented. Two objections were raised to the nomination. States Parties expressed their views on the matter. The States Parties passed on the matter to the Preparatory Committee for consideration.
- 33. The Meeting also approved the estimated costs pertaining to the costs of the Implementation Support Unit in 2022 as set out in document BWC/MSP/2020/6.
- 34. The Meeting agreed that the abovementioned technical adjustments were temporary measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, do not set a precedent and should not be considered as a review of the decision of the Eighth Review Conference in 2016 that "the Ninth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2021 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, inter alia: (a) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention; (b) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention; and (c) progress of the implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Eighth Review Conference, taking into account, as appropriate, decisions and recommendations reached at previous review conferences".

³ See the letter from the Chairperson of the Meeting of States Parties dated 21 May 2021.

VIII. Documentation

35. A list of official documents of the Meeting of States Parties, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in Annex II to this report. All documents on this list are available on the Convention's website at https://meetings.unoda.org/section/bwc-msp-2020-documents/ and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at https://documents.un.org.

IX. Conclusion of the Meeting of States Parties

36. At its closing meeting on 25 November 2021, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its report by consensus, as orally amended, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2020/CRP.1, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2020/7.

Annex I

Agenda of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties

- 1. Opening of the meeting.
- 2. Adoption of the agenda.
- 3. Adoption of the programme of work.
- 4. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
- General debate.
- 6. Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes:
 - (a) Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X;
 - (b) Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention;
 - (c) Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation;
 - (d) Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness;
 - (e) Meeting of Experts on Institutional Strengthening of the Convention.
- 7. Management of the intersessional programme: Budgetary and financial matters.
- 8. Progress with universalization of the Convention.
- 9. Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit.
- Arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee in 2021 and 2022.
- 11. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
- 12. Closing of the meeting.

Annex II

List of documents of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties

Symbol	Title		
BWC/MSP/2020/1	Provisional agenda for the 2020 Meeting of States Parties - Submitted by the Chairperson		
BWC/MSP/2020/2	Provisional programme of work - Submitted by the Chairperson		
BWC/MSP/2020/3	Report on universalization activities - Submitted by the Chairperson		
BWC/MSP/2020/4	Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit - Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit		
BWC/MSP/2020/5	Report on the Overall Financial Situation of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Chairperson		
BWC/MSP/2020/6 English only	Estimated costs of the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2022 – Note be the Secretariat		
BWC/MSP/2020/7	Report of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties		
BWC/MSP/2020/CRP.1 English only	Draft report of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties		
BWC/MSP/2020/MISC.1 English/French/Spanish only	Provisional list of participants		
BWC/MSP/2020/INF.1 English/French/Spanish only	List of participants		
BWC/MSP/2020/INF.2 English only	Non-paper submitted by the Chairperson of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties and the Chairpersons of the 2020 Meetings of Experts to the Biological Weapons Convention		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.1 English and Russian only	Proposal to enhance the format of confidence-building measures under the Biological Weapons Convention – Submitted by the Russian Federation		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.2 English and Russian only	Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Proposal for the BWC Article VI Implementation – Submitted by the Russian Federation		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.3 English and French only	Proposal for the establishment of a database for assistance under Article VII of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention – Submitted by France and India		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.4 English and French only	An exchange Platform for voluntary transparency exercises – Submitted by Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands and Spain		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.5 English and French only	Proposal for establishment of an international platform dedicated to biosecurity and biosafety: SecBio – Submitted by France		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.6 English only	Enhancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as an Integral Part of the Institutional Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) – Submitted by Panama		

Symbol	Title		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.7 Chinese and English only	The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists – Submitted by China and Pakistan, co-sponsored by Brazil		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.8 English only	Implementation of Articles IV and X of the Biological Weapons Convention – Submitted by the Republic of Korea		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.9 English and Russian only	Report on Implementation of Article X of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction – Submitted by the Russian Federation		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.10 English and Spanish only	Difficulties and obstacles faced by Cuba for the full implementation of Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention – Submitted by Cuba		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.11 English only	Article X Cooperation and Laboratory Support: The Example of the Biological Threat Reduction Program – Submitted by the United States of America		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.12 English only	Current Trends and their Implications to the Biological Weapons Convention – Submitted by the United States of America		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.13 English only	Progress on Dissemination of the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists - Submitted by China and Pakistan		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.14 English only	Nomination for the Presidency of the Ninth BWC Review Conference - Submitted by India		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.15 English only	Concept note and chart produced by the Chairperson of the 2020 Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention - Submitted by Japan		
BWC/MSP/2020/WP.16 English only	Proposals to the BWC MSP 2020 draft final report – Submitted by the Russian Federation		