

**Ninth 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**

2 December 2022

English only

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Geneva, 28 November to 16 December 2022

Item 6 of the agenda

**Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference and Chairpersons  
and Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting  
Committee and the Credentials Committee**

**The decision of the Russian Federation to withdraw from the  
Eastern European Group of the Convention on the  
Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling  
of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on  
their Destruction (BTWC)**

**Submitted by the Russian Federation**

1. One State for purely political reasons makes attempts to infringe on the rights of the Russian Federation in the framework of the Eastern European Group (EEG). We consider such actions as aimed to discriminate our country in the EEG, as an unfounded restriction of our inalienable right to be nominated and participate in the work of the BTWC bodies, including as a member of the bureau of the BTWC Ninth Review Conference. We see this as an attempt to downplay Russia's constructive contribution to the activities of the Convention.
2. Such dishonest attitude towards the Russian Federation undermines the credibility and effectiveness of the EEG and the BTWC as a whole. We do not exclude that by doing so they are trying to force us to take similar discriminatory measures and block the establishment of the bureau of the BTWC Ninth Review Conference and the work of the Conference as a whole.
3. However, we are avoiding any provocations. In order to ensure smooth work of the BTWC and taking into account the existing challenges (including financial issues) we did not ban any other nominations under the EEG. For us, unlike the above mentioned State Party, it is of vital importance to successfully hold the Ninth Review Conference, negotiate its consensus final document, ensure effective functioning of the Convention rather than satisfy self-serving politicized ambitions.
4. At the same time, we are aware that due to the current political situation and anti-Russia policy pursued by the above mentioned State Party at all international fora, we can hardly expect that the situation with the EEG would change in the near future. We will no way put up with this. However, we do not intend to obstruct the substantial work under the Convention.
5. In this regard, we inform you of the decision of the Russian Federation to withdraw from the BTWC EEG and to form a new regional group under this Convention, consisting of one country – the Russian Federation. We would ask the States Parties as well as the BTWC Implementation Support Unit to take it into account in organizing further work under the Convention.
6. We would like to emphasize that our withdrawal from the BTWC EEG does not set a precedent, concerns only the work within the Convention and has no consequences with regard to the work of UN bodies or our membership in the EEG within the UN. We would ask that this decision, as well as the other understandings we have indicated in this regard, be reflected in the Final Document of the BTWC Ninth Review Conference.



## Annex

Делегация  
Российской Федерации  
на IX Конференции по обзору  
действия Конвенции о  
запрещении разработки,  
производства и накопления  
запасов бактериологического  
(биологического) и токсинного  
оружия и об их уничтожении



Delegation  
of the Russian Federation  
at the Ninth Review  
Conference of the Convention  
on the Prohibition of the  
Development, Production and  
Stockpiling of Bacteriological  
(Biological) and Toxin  
Weapons and on their  
Destruction

Geneva, 19 November 2022

The Delegation of the Russian Federation at the Ninth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC) presents its compliments to the President of the Ninth Review Conference of the Convention and has the honor to inform on the decision of the Russian Federation to withdraw from the BTWC Eastern European Group (EEG).

One State for purely political reasons makes attempts to infringe on the rights of the Russian Federation in the framework of the EEG. We consider such actions as aimed to discriminate our country in the EEG, as an unfounded restriction of our inalienable right to be nominated and participate in the work of

H.E. Mr. LEONARDO BENCINI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Cc: Mr ANDREJ STEFANOVIC  
ATTACHE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. CAROLYNE MÉLANIE RÉGIMBAL  
CHIEF OF SERVICE  
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS  
(GENEVA BRANCH)

Mr. DANIEL FEAKES  
CHIEF OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT  
BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION

the BTWC bodies, including as a member of the bureau of the BTWC Ninth Review Conference. We see this as an attempt to downplay Russia's constructive contribution to the activities of the Convention.

Such dishonest attitude towards the Russian Federation undermines the credibility and effectiveness of the EEG and the BTWC as a whole. We do not exclude that by doing so they are trying to force us to take similar discriminatory measures and block the establishment of the bureau of the BTWC Ninth Review Conference and the work of the Conference as a whole.

However, we are avoiding any provocations. In order to ensure smooth work of the BTWC and taking into account the existing challenges (including financial issues) we did not ban any other nominations under the EEG. For us, unlike the above mentioned State Party, it is of vital importance to successfully hold the Ninth Review Conference, negotiate its consensus final document, ensure effective functioning of the Convention rather than satisfy self-serving politicized ambitions.

At the same time, we are aware that due to the current political situation and anti-Russia policy pursued by the above mentioned State Party at all international fora, we can hardly expect that the situation with the EEG would change in the near future. We will no way put up with this. However, we do not intend to obstruct the substantial work under the Convention.

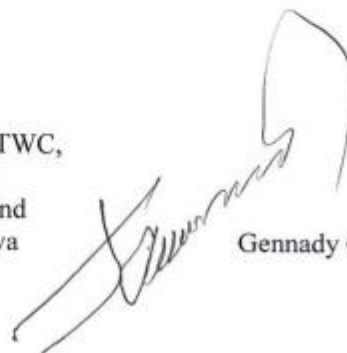
In this regard, we inform you of the decision of the Russian Federation to withdraw from the BTWC EEG and to form a new regional group under this Convention, consisting of one country – the Russian Federation. We would ask the States Parties as well as the BTWC Implementation Support Unit to take this decision into account in organizing further work under the Convention.

We would like to emphasize that our withdrawal from the BTWC EEG does not set a precedent, concerns only the work within the Convention and has no consequences with regard to the work of UN bodies or our membership in the EEG within the UN. We would ask that this decision, as well as the other understandings we have indicated in this regard, be reflected in the Final Document of the BTWC Ninth Review Conference.

The Delegation of the Russian Federation requests the President of the Ninth Review Conference to circulate the letter among BTWC States Parties and publish it at the BTWC website as an enclosure to the attached working paper submitted by the Russian Federation.

The Delegation of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the President of the Ninth Review Conference of the Convention the assurances of its highest consideration.

Head of the Delegation  
to the Ninth Review Conference of the BTWC,  
Permanent Representative of the Russian  
Federation to the United Nations Office and  
other international organizations in Geneva

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gennady GATILOV', is written over a horizontal line.

Gennady GATILOV