

**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**

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Geneva, 28 November-16 December 2022

Item 11 of the agenda

Consideration of issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention  
as provided for in its Article XII and any possible consensus follow-up action

**Efforts of the Kyrgyz Republic in enhancing implementation  
of the Biological Weapons Convention: Peer Review Exercise  
under EU Council Decision 2019/97 in support of the  
Biological Weapons Convention**

**Submitted by the Kyrgyz Republic**

**I. Background**

1. The 'Peer Review Exercise in the Kyrgyz Republic under EU Council Decision 2019/97 in support of the Biological Weapons Convention' was held in Issyk Kul, from 16-18 August 2022 and preceded by a Preparatory Meeting held in Geneva from 12 to 14 October 2021. The overall objective of the exercise was to strengthen national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and enhance international co-operation on related matters.
2. The activity was funded under EU Council Decision 2019/97 in support of the BWC. It was organized by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in close collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Programme Office in Bishkek, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU).

**II. Participants**

3. The event involved 28 representatives from the following Ministries and State agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic and non-governmental organizations: Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Defense, State Committee on National Security, State Customs Service, General Staff of Armed Forces, Ministry of Agriculture, Public Health Institute and Center for Non-proliferation and Export Control.
4. The exercise further involved representatives from the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, BWC ISU, UNODA's Regional Coordinator for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) for Asia, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia, European Union Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic, EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (Regional Secretariat for Central Asia), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and International Science and Technology Center (ISTC). Experts from five States Parties, namely Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan and the United States of America, also participated in the exercise.



### III. Overview

5. The exercise was structured around three goals:
  - **Goal 1: National Legal Framework.** The objective for this goal was to review and further develop the national legal framework for BWC implementation and related matters, including the draft biosafety law currently being developed by the Kyrgyz Republic;
  - **Goal 2: Comprehensive Approach to Biosafety and Biosecurity.** The objective for this goal was to exchange best practices on the development and implementation of a comprehensive national approach to biosafety and biosecurity; and
  - **Goal 3: International Cooperation and Assistance.** The objective for this goal was to identify opportunities for international cooperation and assistance in the framework of the BWC.
6. During the sessions, the Kyrgyz Republic provided updates on the status of BWC implementation as well as their plans and assistance needs to further enhance its application at the national level. Interactive feedback sessions with international experts enabled to exchange on best practices and identify recommendations towards this goal.

### IV. Outcomes and Recommendations

7. In relation to Goal 1 (National Legal Framework), the discussions highlighted that the adoption of a biosafety law would considerably enhance BWC implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic by providing a comprehensive legal basis for the establishment of a national system for preventing biological risks, including for the establishment and enforcement of requirements that are consistent across sectors. The event enabled to identify good practices and recommendations for the review and finalization of the draft biosafety law. The importance of incorporating legal provisions that provide for a comprehensive scope in the application of the law, consistent with the BWC and other related international instruments, was particularly highlighted.
  8. In relation to Goal 2 (Comprehensive Approach to Biosafety and Biosecurity), the discussions highlighted that national coordination among relevant institutions is essential for effective implementation of the BWC and for an integrated national approach for biosafety and biosecurity. It was also emphasized that existing institutional mechanisms for implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) provide a good basis for this coordination. The exercise enabled to conduct a mapping of responsibilities of relevant institutions on matters related to the BWC, biosafety and biosecurity as a tool to enhance interinstitutional coordination and provided recommendations on possible mechanisms to formalize the delineation of relevant functions.
  9. In relation to Goal 3 (International Cooperation and Assistance), the discussions highlighted that various organizations and States Parties stood ready to facilitate a matchmaking process in terms of delivery of assistance and that the preparation of a consolidated request for assistance at the national level was essential for a successful matchmaking process. The event enabled to identify assistance needs, particularly in terms of capacity-building on biosafety and biosecurity as well as recommendations towards the elaboration of a comprehensive request in the framework of Article X of the BWC.
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