

**Formal Consultative 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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2022 Meeting

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Item 6 of the agenda

**Respective outstanding questions by the Russian Federation
to the United States and to Ukraine concerning the fulfilment
of their respective obligations under the Convention in the context
of the operation of biological laboratories in Ukraine**

**National statement of Ireland by Mr. Jamie Walsh,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the
Conference on Disarmament**

Submitted by Ireland

Chair,

1. Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

2. First, I would like to begin by thanking you, Ambassador Molnar, and the ISU for the work you have undertaken in preparation for this meeting in a short timeframe. I assure you of Ireland's full cooperation and support.

Chair,

3. The use of biological agents or toxins as instruments of war is abhorrent and there can be no impunity for those who would seek to use them. To this end, it is critical that we support and defend the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) as the legally binding global norm, and cornerstone of international efforts, against such weapons.

Chair,

4. My delegation considers the Article V formal consultative mechanism as an important part of the convention's ability to address any problems that may arise in relation to the convention's objectives, or application of its provisions.

5. We have carefully reviewed the documents tabled by the Russian Federation in advance of this meeting and listened to its presentations throughout this week. It is our considered view that no substantive or credible evidence has been presented at this meeting to support its allegations against Ukraine or the US.

6. Much of the information provided by Russia relates to legitimate projects designed to advance biosecurity and global health, benefitting humankind.

7. My delegation appreciates the comprehensive and substantive responses by the United States and Ukraine to these allegations. The responses clearly demonstrate that their treaty-related activities, as well as their activities conducted through the Cooperative Threat Reduction Programme, represent peaceful, legitimate cooperation and research. Such activities are fully consistent with Article X of the Convention and, indeed, are to be encouraged.



Chair,

8. The formal consultative mechanism under Article V was developed to facilitate collaborative consultation and cooperation among States Parties in order to resolve issues relating to the Convention. By calling for Article V consultations in order to level unfounded allegations against Ukraine and the US, States Parties who are in good standing to the Convention, Russia risks undermining legitimate biosafety and biosecurity research. Such cooperation is essential for the international community's collective efforts to prevent and control outbreaks of disease. Indeed, exchanges of biological samples and data are essential practices to support pandemic preparedness, which, as the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated is more important than ever.

Chair,

9. In closing, my delegation believes that this matter has been comprehensively addressed and we, as States parties, must now turn our attention to the important work of the Review Conference of the Convention later this year. We urge the Russian Federation not to continue to misuse Article V of the Convention in furtherance of its efforts to undermine essential multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, upon which our collective security depends.

Thank you.
