
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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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

Baltic States statement at the Formal Consultative Meeting pursuant to Article V of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

Submitted by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Mr. Chair,

1. I am delivering this statement on behalf of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
2. At the outset, let me assure you, Ambassador Molnar, of our full support in your role as the Chair of these Article V consultations.
3. Article V of the BWC provides all Member States a very important mechanism for dialogue and consultations in order to clarify and resolve any kind of issues, which may arise in relation to the objective, or in the application, of the BWC. However, this mechanism cannot and should not be used for spreading false information and ungrounded accusations against Member States that are cooperating in legitimate and peaceful biosafety and biosecurity research programs.
4. It is deplorable that the Russian Federation is making these false accusations while at the same time waging unlawful war against Ukraine. The assertions made by the Russian Federation and which form the basis of its request for this meeting are completely unfounded. It demonstrates once again how the Russian Federation is using disinformation as a way to justify its acts of aggression against another sovereign state.
5. We appreciate the answers provided by the United States and Ukraine in line with the relevant understandings of previous Review Conferences, including the additional information on the Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Area of Prevention of Proliferation of Technology, Pathogens, and Expertise of 2005. It is evident that the cooperation of the United States and Ukraine is legitimate and peaceful, as well as contributes to the implementation of Article X and its obligations.
6. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of international disease surveillance and power of open, transparent, and responsible scientific cooperation and collaboration, such as that undertaken by United States and Ukraine.
7. It is regrettable that we have to spend our time and resources discussing unsubstantiated claims made by the Russian Federation. In our view, this meeting exhausts the subject raised by the Russian delegation. While we continue to support the institutions of consultations under Article V as an integral part of the BWC regime, we hope that further



cooperation of Member States and assistance for peaceful purposes under Article X will not be negatively affected in the future.

Thank you Mr. Chair.
