

**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**

**Swedish national statement, BWTC Article V
Consultative Meeting
Ms. Sara Lindegren, DPR Disarmament,
Permanent Representation of Sweden to the UN in
Geneva**

Submitted by Sweden

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. Sweden is fully aligned with the statement of the European Union and in addition we would make the following remarks in our national capacity.
2. Let me begin by underlining Sweden's strong commitment to the BTWC including its Article X. We facilitate and participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment and materials, as well as scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes. Swedish agencies, universities, academic institutions, and other entities contribute to this endeavour. Studies planned and/or undertaken in collaboration with other countries with the purpose to prevent the spread of disease include scientific research focusing on the natural movement of pathogens, thus furthering important knowledge for the strengthening of global health security. We have all in this room experienced the importance and the need for international collaboration and cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. We have participated in the consultations this week since we consider article V as an important mechanism within the BTWC. After these days, it stands, however, blatantly clear to us that the Russian Federation's false claims are politically motivated and intended to build mistrust about the objectives and intentions of fully legitimate research. Research aimed at protecting human and animal lives and health.
4. We wish to echo many other speakers in rejecting the absurd allegations put forward by Russia, which ultimately seek to justify its unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war against Ukraine. These allegations not only distract from and undermine legitimate international cooperation to combat infectious disease, but also undermine the BTWC itself and the valuable cooperation under article X of the convention.



5. Biological research in Ukraine and the US Biological Threat Reduction program is carried out for legitimate human and animal health purposes, in transparency and in full compliance with obligations under the BTWC. We call on Russia to cease their unfounded allegations and stop its disinformation campaign.
