

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

Distr.: General
9 September 2022

English only

2022 Meeting

Geneva, 26 August and 5-9 September 2022

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

Concluding statement by H.E. Ambassador Yurii Klymenko, Head of the delegation of Ukraine at the Formal Consultative Meeting of the States Parties to the BTWC (Geneva, September 6, 2022)

Submitted by Ukraine

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I don't think I need to convince you that our delegation and our U.S. partners did our best to present our case at this Formal Consultative Meeting of the States Parties to the BTWC with full respect to this important international disarmament instrument and for the sake of its integrity.

2. I think you have fully verified during these two consecutive days Ukraine's strict adherence to the BTWC and entirely peaceful nature of relevant Ukraine – U.S. cooperation. Our state will keep its words and will receive a transparency visit of international independent experts to its public health laboratories as soon as the Russian Federation stops its full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine.

Distinguished delegates,

3. I presume you had an opportunity to even reinforce your conviction in purely manipulative, absurd, and groundless Russian allegations related to the activities in public health laboratories in the territory of Ukraine, accompanied by the bullying behavior of the Russian delegation. I believe that you have fully realized the real Russia's purpose of invoking the Article V of the BTWC – to create artificial grounds to justify unleashed by it full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine as well as to divert attention of the international community from egregious crimes committed by Russia in the territory of our independent and sovereign state.

4. And it is also remarkable, I hope you have noticed it as well, with regard to Ukraine in the spheres of biotechnology, biosafety and biosecurity, protection of human and animal health Russia behaves arrogantly in imperial manner, following the principle of "Quod licet Iovi, non licet bovi" ("What is permitted to Jupiter is not permitted to an ox"). In other words, while conducting itself biological research and developing relevant international cooperation, Russia at the same time vehemently opposes similar activities from the Ukrainian side.



Moreover, it attempts to prohibit Ukraine to pursue activities that are in line with normal world practice.

5. It is very regrettable that the kremlin, having created a fake about a development of biological weapons in the Ukrainian public health laboratories, with the engagement of the United States, has set a very dangerous precedent. Following its aggressive politics, russia might apply one day in future the same approach to other BTWC's States Parties in the European and other regions of the globe, whereto it decides to bring the so-called «russian world», or whose internationally recognized borders it would like to change, finding for it any pretext. And, of cause, the russian strategy with the misuse of the BTWC's provisions could be also adopted by russia's few followers with evil intentions.

Distinguished delegates,

6. We the members of the BTWC community have faced a real challenge - the blatant efforts to abuse the credibility and integrity of the Convention. This challenge must be seriously tackled, if of cause, we want to have a viable Convention. The best opportunity to do that might be at the Ninth BTWC Review Conference in November-December 2022. We need to develop a strong immunity against the BTWC's misuse in future. We must respond firmly to any further russian or its proxies' encroachments.

7. We have to prevent further russian provocations in the territory of Ukraine with the eventual false flag use of biological warfare agents developed, inter alia, from the occupied Ukrainian public health laboratories' biomaterial. To achieve this goal, it is paramount for the international community to remain vigilant and force russia to provide as soon as possible with the relevant data on the location and use of the bio-resources contained therein.

8. We should not turn a blind eye as well to russia's covert activities bypassing the BTWC's provisions. Our delegation has already drawn attention to russia's specific biological institutions and their activities of utmost concern. The international community should be uncompromising in this matter, and russia must be made accountable.

9. The BTWC States Parties should take these concerns and appeals seriously and be proactive until it's not too late. Until russia does not fully undermine the Convention and uses biological warfare agents in Ukraine or elsewhere in the world.

10. Russia's atrocities in Ukraine, massacres of civilians, raping of women fully prove that it is a criminal and terrorist state, a real threat to international peace and security. And it should be treated as such.

Mr. Chairperson,

11. I request that this statement be an Official Document (and Working Paper) of this Article V consultative meeting, and that it be posted by the Implementation Support Unit on the UN Geneva public website.

I thank you.
