

**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  
12 September 2022  
English only

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**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**

## **National statement by Norway to the Formal Consultative Meeting pursuant to Article V**

### **Submitted by Norway**

Chair,

1. Norway firmly supports the Biological Weapons Convention, and we are determined to uphold a total ban against biological weapons.
2. Allegations of violations of the BWC articles I and IV are extremely serious and merit scrutiny. The Article V-process is an important tool under the Convention to address issues of compliance. Its integrity rests on responsible use that is based on credible data and information.
3. Norway has meticulously assessed the documents provided by the Russian Federation in the Note Verbale of 8 July, as well as documents circulated to the BWC States Parties at other times this year on the subject-matter. We have listened carefully to the presentation by the Russian Federation on Monday, the response by Ukraine and the United States, as well as the exchange on Tuesday.
4. We appreciate that purported activities of a clandestine nature will be difficult to substantiate. Yet, we have heard nothing – or read nothing – that even comes close to substantiating such allegations.
5. Rather, we are struck by the weakness of the documents and information, especially in light of the repeated claim that Russia – in the course of its invasion – had obtained thousands of pages of evidence. The documents fail to substantiate the Russian allegation of illegal intent by either the United States or Ukraine. A number of selective readings and obvious mischaracterizations of the documentation only serves to further undermine the credibility of the allegations.
6. Contrary to the Russian assertions, the agreements and other project documentation strongly suggest that the cited cooperation between the United States and Ukraine indeed had a legitimate, peaceful purpose. A purpose fully in line with the provisions on International Cooperation and Assistance in Article X of the BWC.
7. The assertion that research under the US-Ukraine cooperation had been of little practical relevance to Ukraine is questionable. The insinuation that research on issues that are not a major national public health threat in Ukraine should exclude a legitimate, peaceful purpose is not only strained. It is quite frankly condescending. And it threatens to undermine Article X of the Convention. Projects like the ones cited by Russia are of international



relevance. They contribute to our common pool of knowledge, and to strengthening our collective resilience to biological threats.

8. We find that Ukraine and the United States have addressed the main substance of the Russian questions and allegations in a detailed and coherent manner – albeit not in the order they were posed.

9. A review of the documentary evidence and the oral presentations lead us to the firm conclusion that no violation of the BWC has been demonstrated.

10. Russia's allegations, insinuations and continued insistence that its questions and concerns remain unaddressed serves only to demonstrate the motive behind these consultations: to draw the attention away from Russia's role as aggressor in its illegal, unjustified invasion of Ukraine in blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

11. We are disheartened that Russia has chosen to abuse one of the few essential mechanisms that exist under this treaty, risking its integrity. And that the process is being used to assail international cooperation and assistance encouraged under Article X – one of the cornerstones of our Convention.

12. We call on Russia to end this campaign of disinformation in the BWC.

13. We consider that the consultations have served their purpose to demonstrate that the Russian allegations do not give cause for concern of violations of the BWC by the United States and Ukraine; and hence that this process can be concluded on Friday.

Thank you.

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