BWC/CONF.VII/7

Seventh Review Conference 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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Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference

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I. Organization and work of the Conference

A. Introduction

1. The Final Document of the Sixth Review Conference 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 (BWC/CONF.VI/6), in paragraph 61 of the Final Declaration, contained the following decision:

"The Conference decides that the Seventh Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2011 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, *inter alia*:

(i) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention;

(ii) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the obligations under the Convention;

(iii) progress of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Sixth Review Conference".

2. By resolution 65/92, adopted without a vote on 8 December 2010, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, noted the proposal to hold the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Seventh Review Conference in April 2011 and to hold the Seventh Review Conference in Geneva in December 2011 and requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Seventh Review Conference and the preparations for it.

3. The Preparatory Committee was held at Geneva from 13 to 14 April 2011. The following 93 States Parties to the Convention participated in the Preparatory Committee: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

4. At its first meeting, on 13 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation Ambassador Paul van den IJssel (Netherlands) as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. At the same meeting, it also unanimously elected Ambassador Desra Percaya (Indonesia) and Ms. Judit Körömi (Hungary) as Vice-Chairmen of the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee authorized the Bureau to handle technical and other matters in the period before the Review Conference was convened.

5. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Jarmo Sareva, Director of the Geneva Branch, Office for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Richard Lennane, Head of the Implementation Support Unit, served as

Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Piers Millett, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh, Associate Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, and Mr. Joshua Childress served in the Secretariat.

6. The Preparatory Committee decided to take its decisions by consensus.

7. The Preparatory Committee decided to use Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages.

8. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of their written requests, decided to invite the representatives of three signatories to the Convention, Egypt, Haiti and Myanmar, to participate in its discussions without the right to take part in the making of decisions.

9. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of a written request and in accordance with the draft rule 44, paragraph 2, decided to invite the representative of one state neither party nor signatory to the Convention, Israel, to participate as an Observer.

10. In the course of its session, the Preparatory Committee considered the following questions relating to the organization of the Review Conference:

(a) Date and duration;

(b) Provisional agenda;

(c) Draft rules of procedure;

(d) Background documentation;

(e) Publicity;

(f) Final document(s);

(g) Appointment of a provisional Secretary-General;

(h) Financial arrangements for the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.

11. At its last meeting, on 14 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee adopted its report, which was issued as a pre-session document of the Conference (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2). The report contained, *inter alia*, the provisional agenda and the draft rules of procedure for the Conference (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2, Annexes I and II, respectively).

12. Pursuant to the request of the Preparatory Committee, the following background documents were prepared by the Implementation Support Unit and issued as pre-session documents for the Conference:

(a) A background information document on the history and operation of the confidence-building measures agreed at the Second Review Conference and revised at the Third Review Conference. The document included data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the measures since the last Review Conference;

(b) A background information document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention, compiled from information submitted by States Parties;

(c) A background information document on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, compiled from information submitted by States Parties as well as from information provided by relevant international organisations;

(d) A background information document on developments since the last Review Conference in other international organizations which may be relevant to the Convention;

(e) A background information document showing the additional understandings and agreements reached by previous Review Conferences relating to each article of the Convention, extracted from the respective Final Declarations of these conferences;

(f) A background information document showing the common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2007 to 2010;

(g) A background information document on the status of universalization of the Convention;

(h) A background information document on the implementation of Article X, compiled from information submitted by States Parties, including information submitted pursuant to paragraph 54 of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Review Conference.

B. Organization of the Conference

13. In accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 5 to 22 December 2011.

14. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Jarmo Sareva, Director of the Geneva Branch, Office for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Conference.

15. At its first meeting, on 5 December, the Conference elected by acclamation Ambassador Paul van den IJssel (Netherlands) as President.

16. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, addressed the Conference via a video message.

17. The Conference adopted its agenda as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VII/1). The agenda as adopted is attached as Annex I to this Final Document.

18. The Conference took note with appreciation of the report of the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2).

19. The Conference adopted its Rules of Procedure as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2, Annex II). The Rules as adopted are attached as Annex II of this Final Document. The Rules of Procedure provided, *inter alia*, for:

(a) a General Committee, chaired by the President of the Conference, and composed of the President, the 20 Vice-Presidents, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Drafting Committee, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Credentials Committee, the three Regional Group Coordinators and the Depositaries (see paragraph 22 of the report of the Preparatory Committee);

(b) a Committee of the Whole;

(c) a Drafting Committee; and

(d) a Credentials Committee composed of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected by the Conference, and five other members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President.

20. The Conference elected by acclamation 20 Vice-Presidents from the following States Parties: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa. It also elected by acclamation the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee, as follows:

Committee of the Whole

Chairman: Ambassador Desra Percaya (Indonesia)

Vice-Chairman: Ambassador Gancho Ganev (Bulgaria)

Vice-Chairman: Ambassador Eric Danon (France)

Drafting Committee

Chairman: Ms. Judit Körömi (Hungary)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. John Walker (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. U. L. M. Jauhar (Sri Lanka)

Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Mário Duarte (Portugal)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Vipul (India)

The Conference also appointed the following five States Parties as members of the Credentials Committee: Colombia, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia and Serbia.

21. The Conference confirmed the nomination of Mr. Richard Lennane, Head of the Implementation Support Unit, as Secretary-General of the Conference. The nomination had been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations following an invitation by the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Piers Millett, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Conference. Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh, Associate Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, Mr. Kevin Ching and Ms. Monica Loveley served in the Secretariat.

C. Participation at the Conference

22. One hundred and three States Parties to the Convention participated in the Conference as follows: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

23. In addition, five states that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Conference without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Haiti, Myanmar and the United Republic of Tanzania.

24. Two states, Cameroon and Israel, neither parties nor signatories to the Convention, were granted Observer status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a).

25. The United Nations, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), attended the Conference in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

26. The African Union, the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) were granted Observer Agency status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

27. Forty-seven non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Conference under rule 44, paragraph 5.

D. Work of the Conference

28. The Conference held nine plenary meetings between 5 and 22 December 2011.

29. At its first plenary meeting, on 5 December, the Conference adopted its indicative programme of work, as set out in BWC/CONF.VII/2.

30. The Conference held a general debate, in which 54 States Parties, one signatory, the European Union, the ICRC, INTERPOL, NATO, OIE, OPCW, UNICRI and WHO made statements.

31. The Committee of the Whole held 10 meetings between 7 and 16 December, during which it reviewed the provisions of the Convention, article by article. The Committee also examined agenda items 11 and 12. The Committee submitted its report (BWC/CONF.VII/5) to the Conference at the eighth plenary meeting, on 16 December. The Conference took note of the report.

32. Following the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole, the President conducted a series of informal consultations, and was assisted in his work by Facilitators in the following areas:

Solemn Declaration: Ambassador Alexandre Fasel (Switzerland)

Articles I-XV: Ms. Judit Körömi (Hungary) and Mr. Daniel Simanjuntak (Indonesia)

Science and technology: Mr. Zahid Rastam (Malaysia)

Assistance and cooperation: Mr. Jesus Domingo (Philippines)

Confidence-building measures (CBMs): Mr. Paul Wilson (Australia)

Intersessional programme: Ambassador Jo Adamson (United Kingdom) and Mr. Ben Steyn (South Africa)

33. The Drafting Committee held no formal meetings. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee met, and decided to assist the President with his informal consultations.

34. The Credentials Committee held three meetings. At its third and final meeting on 21 December, the Credentials Committee adopted its report (BWC/CONF.VII/6). The Conference took note of the report.

E. Documentation

35. A list of documents of the Conference is contained in Annex IV of this Final Document. All documents on this list are available on the Implementation Support Unit website at http://www.unog.ch/bwc and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at http://documents.un.org.

F. Conclusion of the Conference

36. At its ninth and final plenary meeting, on 22 December, the Conference decided that the 2012 Meeting of Experts would be held in Geneva from 16 to 20 July 2012 and that the 2012 Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from 10 to 14 December 2012. The Conference approved the nomination by the Group of the Non-aligned Movement and Other States of Ambassador Idriss Jazaïry (Algeria) as Chairman of the 2012 meetings.

37. At the same meeting the Conference adopted by consensus its Final Document, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VII/CRP.2, as orally amended, comprising three parts and four annexes, as follows:

Part I:	Organization and work of the Conference
Part II:	Final Declaration
Part III:	Decisions and recommendations
Annex I:	Revised forms for the submission of the Confidence-Building Measures
Annex II:	Agenda of the Conference
Annex III:	Rules of Procedure of the Conference
Annex IV:	List of documents of the Conference

II. Final Declaration

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, which met in Geneva from 5 December to 22 December 2011 to review the operation of the Convention, solemnly declare:

(i) Their conviction that the Convention is essential for international peace and security;

(ii) Their determination also to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and their conviction that the prohibitions of the Convention will facilitate the achievement of this goal;

(iii) Their reaffirmation of their understanding that the Convention forms a composite whole, as well as of their firm commitment to the purposes of the Preamble and all the provisions of the Convention;

(iv) Their determination to comply with all their obligations undertaken pursuant to the Convention and their recognition that States Parties not in compliance with their Convention obligations pose fundamental challenges to the Convention's viability, as would the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons by anyone at any time;

(v) Their continued determination, for the sake of humankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, and their conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind;

(vi) Their reaffirmation that under any circumstances the use, development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons is effectively prohibited under Article I of the Convention;

(vii) Their conviction that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and whatever its motivation, is abhorrent and unacceptable to the international community, and that terrorists must be prevented from developing, producing, stockpiling, or otherwise acquiring or retaining, and using under any circumstances, biological agents and toxins, equipment, or means of delivery of agents or toxins, for non-peaceful purposes, and their recognition of the contribution of the full and effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/288, and other relevant United Nations resolutions;

(viii) Their reiteration that the effective contribution of the Convention to international peace and security will be enhanced through universal adherence to the Convention, and their call on signatories to ratify and other States, not party, to accede to the Convention without further delay;

(ix) Their recognition that achieving the objectives of the Convention will be more effectively realized through greater public awareness of its contribution, and through collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, in keeping within their respective mandates, and their commitment to promote this;

(x) Their recognition of their consideration of the issues identified in reviewing the operation of the Convention as provided for in Article XII, as well as their consensus on the follow-up actions contained herein.

Article I

1. The Conference reaffirms the importance of Article I, as it defines the scope of the Convention. The Conference declares that the Convention is comprehensive in its scope and that all naturally or artificially created or altered microbial and other biological agents and toxins, as well as their components, regardless of their origin and method of production and whether they affect humans, animals or plants, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, are unequivocally covered by Article I.

2. The Conference reaffirms that Article I applies to all scientific and technological developments in the life sciences and in other fields of science relevant to the Convention and notes that the Conference has decided to include in the 2012-2015 intersessional programme a standing agenda item on review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention.

3. The Conference reaffirms that the use by the States Parties, in any way and under any circumstances of microbial or other biological agents or toxins, that is not consistent with prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, is effectively a violation of Article I. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking in Article I never in any circumstances to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain weapons, equipment, or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict in order to exclude completely and forever the possibility of their use. The Conference affirms the determination of States Parties to condemn any use of biological agents or toxins other than for peaceful purposes, by anyone at any time.

4. The Conference notes that experimentation involving open air release of pathogens or toxins harmful to humans, animals and plants that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes is inconsistent with the undertakings contained in Article I.

Article II

5. The Conference reaffirms for any state ratifying or acceding to the Convention, the destruction or diversion to peaceful purposes specified in Article II would be completed upon accession to, or upon ratification of, the Convention.

6. The Conference emphasises that states must take all necessary safety and security measures to protect human populations and the environment, including animals and plants, when carrying out such destruction and/or diversion. The Conference also stresses that these States Parties should provide appropriate information to all States Parties via the exchange of information (confidence-building measures form F).

7. The Conference welcomes statements made by States Parties, and newly acceding and ratifying States Parties, that they do not possess agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery as prohibited by Article I of the Convention.

Article III

8. The Conference reaffirms that Article III is sufficiently comprehensive to cover any recipient whatsoever at the international, national or sub-national levels.

9. The Conference calls for appropriate measures, including effective national export controls, by all States Parties to implement this Article, in order to ensure that direct and

indirect transfers relevant to the Convention, to any recipient whatsoever, are authorized only when the intended use is for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

10. The Conference reiterates that States Parties should not use the provisions of this Article to impose restrictions and/or limitations on transfers for purposes consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials under Article X.

Article IV

11. The Conference reaffirms the commitment of States Parties to take the necessary national measures under this Article. The Conference also reaffirms that the enactment and implementation of necessary national measures under this Article, in accordance with their constitutional processes, would strengthen the effectiveness of the Convention. In this context, the Conference calls upon States Parties to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures, including penal legislation, designed to:

(a) enhance domestic implementation of the Convention and ensure the prohibition and prevention of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery as specified in Article I of the Convention;

(b) apply within their territory, under their jurisdiction or under their control anywhere and apply, if constitutionally possible and in conformity with international law, to actions taken anywhere by natural or legal persons possessing their nationality;

(c) ensure the safety and security of microbial or other biological agents or toxins in laboratories, facilities, and during transportation, to prevent unauthorized access to and removal of such agents or toxins.

12. The Conference welcomes those measures taken by States Parties in this regard, and reiterates its call to any State Party that has not yet taken any necessary measures, to do so without delay. The Conference encourages States Parties to provide appropriate information on any such measures they have taken, as well as any other useful information on their implementation to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

13. The Conference notes the value of national implementation measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the constitutional process of each State Party, to:

(a) implement voluntary management standards on biosafety and biosecurity;

(b) encourage the consideration of development of appropriate arrangements to promote awareness among relevant professionals in the private and public sectors and throughout relevant scientific and administrative activities and;

(c) promote amongst those working in the biological sciences awareness of the obligations of States Parties under the Convention, as well as relevant national legislation and guidelines;

(d) promote the development of training and education programmes for those granted access to biological agents and toxins relevant to the Convention and for those with the knowledge or capacity to modify such agents and toxins;

(e) encourage the promotion of a culture of responsibility amongst relevant national professionals and the voluntary development, adoption and promulgation of codes of conduct;

(f) strengthen methods and capacities for surveillance and detection of outbreaks of disease at the national, regional and international levels, noting that the International Health Regulations (2005) are important for building capacity to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease;

(g) prevent anyone from developing, producing, stockpiling, or otherwise acquiring or retaining, transporting or transferring and using under any circumstances, biological agents and toxins, equipment, or their means of delivery for non-peaceful purposes.

14. In this regard, the Conference welcomes assistance related to Article IV already provided and encourages those States Parties, in a position to do so, to provide assistance, upon request, to other States Parties.

15. The Conference further encourages States Parties, that have not yet done so, in accordance with the recommendation of the Sixth Review Conference, to designate a national focal point for coordinating national implementation of the Convention and communicating with other States Parties and relevant international organizations.

16. The Conference reaffirms that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons is effectively prohibited by the Convention.

17. The Conference recalls United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) that places obligations on all states and is consistent with the provisions of the Convention. The Conference notes that Resolution 1540 affirms support for the multilateral treaties whose aim is to eliminate or prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and the importance for all States Parties to these treaties to implement them fully in order to promote international stability. The Conference also notes that information provided to the United Nations by states in accordance with Resolution 1540 may provide a useful resource for States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under this Article.

Article V

18. The Conference reaffirms that:

(a) this article provides an appropriate framework for States Parties to consult and cooperate with one another to resolve any problem and to make any request for clarification, which may have arisen in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the Convention;

(b) any State Party which identifies such a problem should, as a rule, use this framework to address and resolve it;

(c) States Parties should provide a specific, timely response to any compliance concern alleging a breach of their obligations under the Convention.

19. The Conference reaffirms that the consultation procedures agreed at the Second and Third Review Conferences remain valid to be used by States Parties for consultation and cooperation pursuant to this Article. The Conference reaffirms that such consultation and cooperation may also be undertaken bilaterally and multilaterally, or through other appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter.

20. The Conference takes note of initiatives from States Parties to promote confidence-building under the Convention.

21. The Conference stresses the need for all States Parties to deal effectively with compliance issues. In this connection, the States Parties agreed to provide a specific, timely

response to any compliance concern alleging a breach of their obligations under the Convention. Such responses should be submitted in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the Second Review Conference and further developed by the Third Review Conference. The Conference reiterates its request that information on such efforts be provided to the Review Conferences.

22. The Conference emphasises the importance of the exchange of information among States Parties through the confidence-building measures (CBMs) agreed at the Second and Third Review Conferences. The Conference welcomes the exchange of information carried out under these measures and notes that this has contributed to enhancing transparency and building confidence.

23. The Conference recognises the urgent need to increase the number of States Parties participating in CBMs and calls upon all States Parties to participate annually. The Conference notes that since the Sixth Review Conference, there has only been a slight increase in the percentage of State Parties submitting their CBMs. The Conference emphasises the importance of increasing and continuing participation in the CBMs.

24. The Conference recognises the technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties in completing full and timely submissions. The Conference urges those States Parties, in a position to do so, to provide technical assistance and support, through training for instance, to those States Parties requesting it to assist them to complete their annual CBM submissions. The Conference notes the decision to update the CBM forms.

25. The Conference notes the desirability of making the CBMs more user-friendly and stresses the need to ensure that they provide relevant and appropriate information to States Parties.

26. The Conference recalls that the Third Review Conference agreed, “that the exchange of information and data, using the revised forms, be sent to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs no later than 15 April on an annual basis”. The Conference reaffirms that the data submitted in the framework of the annual exchange of information should be provided to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and promptly made available electronically by it to all States Parties according to the updated modalities and forms in Annex I. The Conference recalls that information supplied by a State Party must not be further circulated or made available without the express permission of that State Party. The Conference notes the fact that certain States Parties made the information they provide publicly available.

Article VI

27. The Conference notes that the provisions of this Article have not been invoked.

28. The Conference emphasizes the provision of Article VI that such a complaint should include all possible evidence confirming its validity. It stresses that, as in the case of the implementation of all the provisions and procedures set forth in the Convention, the procedures foreseen in Article VI should be implemented in good faith within the scope of the Convention.

29. The Conference invites the Security Council:

(a) to consider immediately any complaint lodged under this Article and to initiate any measures it considers necessary for the investigation of the complaint in accordance with the Charter;

(b) to request, if it deems necessary and in accordance with its Resolution 620 of 1988, the United Nations Secretary-General to investigate the allegation of use, using the

technical guidelines and procedures contained in Annex I of United Nations Document A/44/561;

(c) to inform each State Party of the results of any investigation initiated under this Article and to consider promptly any appropriate further action which may be necessary.

30. The Conference reaffirms the agreement of States Parties to consult, at the request of any State Party, regarding allegations of use or threat of use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking of each State Party to cooperate in carrying out any investigations which the Security Council initiates.

31. The Conference notes that the procedure outlined in this Article is without prejudice to the prerogative of the States Parties to consider jointly cases of alleged non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and to make appropriate decisions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and applicable rules of international law.

Article VII

32. The Conference notes with satisfaction that these provisions have not been invoked.

33. The Conference takes note of desires expressed that, should a request for assistance be made, it be promptly considered and an appropriate response provided. In this context, in view of the humanitarian imperative**,** pending consideration of a decision by the Security Council, timely emergency assistance could be provided by States Parties, if requested.

34. The Conference recognises that States Parties bear the responsibility for providing assistance and coordinating with relevant organizations in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking made by each State Party to provide or support assistance in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to any State Party which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such State Party has been exposed to danger as a result of a violation of the Convention.

35. The Conference takes note of the willingness of States Parties, where appropriate, to provide or support assistance to any State Party, which so requests, when that State Party has been exposed to danger or damage as a result of the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons by anyone.

36. The Conference considers that in the event that this Article might be invoked, the United Nations could play a coordinating role in providing assistance, with the help of States Parties, as well as the appropriate intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The Conference recognises the value of further dialogue regarding appropriate means of coordination between States Parties and relevant international organizations.

37. The Conference recognizes that there are challenges to developing effective measures for the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant international organizations to respond to the use of a biological or toxin weapon. The Conference underlines the importance of the coordination of the provision of appropriate assistance, including expertise, information, protection, detection, decontamination, prophylactic and medical and other equipment that could be required to assist the States Parties in the event that a State Party is exposed to danger as a result of a violation of the Convention. The Conference also takes note of the proposal that States Parties may need to discuss the detailed procedure for assistance in order to ensure that timely emergency assistance would

be provided by States Parties, if requested, in the event of use of biological or toxin weapons.

38. The Conference notes that State Parties' national preparedness contributes to international capabilities for response, investigation and mitigation of outbreaks of disease, including those due to alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference notes that there are differences among States Parties in terms of their level of development, national capabilities and resources, and that these differences affect national and international capacity to respond effectively to an alleged use of a biological or toxin weapon. The Conference encourages States Parties, in a position to do so, to assist other States Parties, upon request, to build relevant capacity.

39. The Conference notes the need for States Parties to work nationally, and jointly, as appropriate, to improve, in accordance with their respective circumstances, national laws and regulations, their own disease surveillance and detection capacities for identifying and confirming the cause of outbreaks and cooperating, upon request, to build the capacity of other States Parties. The Conference notes that the International Health Regulations (2005) are important for building capacity to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease; such aims are compatible with the objectives of the Convention.

40. On the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, States Parties recognize that in this regard health and security issues are interrelated at both the national and international levels. The Conference highlights the importance of pursuing initiatives in this area through effective cooperation and sustainable partnerships. The Conference notes the importance of ensuring that efforts undertaken are effective irrespective of whether a disease outbreak is naturally occurring or deliberately caused, and cover diseases and toxins that could harm humans, animals, plants or the environment. The Conference also recognises that capabilities to detect, quickly and effectively respond to, and recover from, the alleged use of a biological or toxin weapon need to be in place before they are required.

Article VIII

41. The Conference appeals to all States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to fulfil their obligations assumed under that Protocol and urges all states not yet party to the Protocol to ratify or accede to it without further delay.

42. The Conference acknowledges that the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, and the Convention complement each other. The Conference reaffirms that nothing contained in the Convention shall be interpreted as in any way limiting or detracting from the obligations assumed by any state under the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

43. The Conference stresses the importance of the withdrawal of all reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol related to the Convention.

44. The Conference recalls the actions which States Parties have taken to withdraw their reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol related to the Convention, and calls upon those States Parties that continue to maintain pertinent reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw those reservations, and to notify the Depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol accordingly, without delay.

45. The Conference notes that reservations concerning retaliation, through the use of any of the objects prohibited by the Convention, even conditional, are totally incompatible

with the absolute and universal prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition and retention of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, with the aim to exclude completely and forever the possibility of their use.

46. The Conference notes that the Secretary-General's investigation mechanism, set out in A/44/561 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/57, represents an international institutional mechanism for investigating cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference notes national initiatives to provide relevant training to experts that could support the Secretary-General's investigative mechanism.

Article IX

47. The Conference reaffirms that this Article identifies the recognized objective of the effective prohibition of chemical weapons.

48. The Conference welcomes the fact that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction entered into force on 29 April 1997 and that 188 instruments of ratification or accession have now been deposited with the United Nations. The Conference calls upon all states that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to that Convention without delay.

49. The Conference notes the increasing convergence of biology and chemistry and its possible challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Conventions.

Article X

50. The Conference stresses the importance of implementation of this Article and recalls that States Parties have a legal obligation to facilitate and have the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

51. The Conference reaffirms the commitment to the full and comprehensive implementation of this Article by all States Parties. The Conference recognises that, while recent scientific and technological developments in the field of biotechnology would increase the potential for cooperation among States Parties and thereby strengthen the Convention, they could also increase the potential for the misuse of both science and technology. Therefore, the Conference urges all States Parties possessing advanced biotechnology to adopt positive measures to promote technology transfer and international cooperation on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, particularly with countries less advanced in this field, while promoting the basic objectives of the Convention, as well as ensuring that the promulgation of science and technology is fully consistent with the peaceful object and purpose of the Convention.

52. The Conference recognises the important role of the private sector in the transfer of technology and information and the wide range of organizations within the United Nations system that are already engaged in international cooperation relevant to this Convention.

53. Recognizing the fundamental importance of enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, the Conference agrees on the value of working together to promote capacity building in the fields of vaccine and drug production, disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases as well as biological risk management. The Conference affirms that building such capacity would directly support the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

54. The Conference:

(a) encourages the States Parties to continue strengthening existing international organizations and networks working on infectious diseases, in particular those of the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC, within their respective mandates;

(b) notes that the role of these organizations is limited to the epidemiological and public/animal/plant health aspects of any disease outbreak, but recognises the added value of information exchange with them;

(c) encourages States Parties to improve communication on disease surveillance at all levels, including between States Parties and with the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC;

(d) calls upon States Parties to continue establishing and/or improving national and regional capabilities to survey, detect, diagnose and combat infectious diseases as well as other possible biological threats and integrate these efforts into national and/or regional emergency and disaster management plans;

(e) urges States Parties in a position to do so to continue supporting, directly as well as through international organizations, capacity-building in States Parties in need of assistance in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases and related research;

(f) calls upon States Parties to promote the development and production of vaccines and drugs to treat infectious disease through international cooperation and, as appropriate, public-private partnerships.

55. The Conference recognizes the importance of developing effective national infrastructure for human, animal and plant disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment, as well as national biological risk management through international cooperation and assistance.

56. The Conference, while noting existing bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance, cooperation and partnerships, recognizes, however, that there still remain challenges to be overcome in developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes and that addressing such problems, challenges, needs and restrictions will help States Parties to build sufficient capacity for disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. Keeping in mind Article X, the Conference agrees on the value of targeting and mobilizing resources, including financial resources, to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information to help overcome challenges to disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. Recognizing that all States Parties have a role to play, the Conference stresses that those States Parties seeking to build their capacity should identify their specific needs and requirements and seek partnerships with others, and that those States Parties, in a position to do so, should provide assistance and support.

57. The Conference reaffirms that existing institutional ways and means of ensuring multilateral cooperation among all States Parties need to be developed further in order to promote international cooperation for peaceful uses in areas relevant to the Convention, including areas, such as medicine, public health, agriculture and the environment.

58. The Conference calls for the use of the existing institutional means within the United Nations system and other international organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to promote the objectives of this Article. In this regard the Conference urges States Parties, the United Nations and its specialized agencies to take further specific measures within their competence for the promotion of the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of

bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and of international cooperation in this field.

59. The Conference also recognises that there should be efficient coordination mechanisms between the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations in order to facilitate scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

60. The Conference recognises the need to effectively implement national measures in order to further implementation of Article X. In this regard, the Conference urges States Parties to undertake to review their national regulations governing international exchanges and transfers in order to ensure their consistency with the objectives and provisions of all the articles of the Convention.

61. The Conference encourages States Parties to provide at least biannually appropriate information on how they implement this Article to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and requests the Implementation Support Unit to collate such information for the information of States Parties. The Conference welcomes the information provided by a number of States Parties on the cooperative measures they have undertaken towards fulfilling their Article X obligations.

Article XI

62. The Conference recalls that the Islamic Republic of Iran has formally presented at the Sixth Review Conference a proposal to amend Article I and the title of the Convention to include explicitly the prohibition of the use of biological weapons.

63. The Conference recalls the statement at the Sixth Review Conference by the Government of the Russian Federation as a Depositary that it has notified all States Parties of the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran to amend the Convention.

64. The Conference reaffirms that the provisions of this Article should in principle be implemented in such a way as not to affect the universality of the Convention.

Article XII

65. The Conference reaffirms that Review Conferences constitute an effective method of reviewing the operation of the Convention with a view to assuring that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the Convention are being realized. The Conference therefore decides that Review Conferences be held at least every five years.

66. The Conference decides that the Eighth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2016 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, *inter alia*:

(a) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, taking into account the relevant decision of this Conference regarding the review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention;

(b) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention;

(c) progress of the implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Seventh Review Conference, taking into account, as appropriate, decisions and recommendations reached at previous review conferences.

Article XIII

67. The Conference reaffirms that the Convention is of unlimited duration and applies at all times, and expresses its satisfaction that no State Party has exercised its right to withdraw from the Convention.

Article XIV

68. The Conference notes with satisfaction that ten states have acceded to or ratified the Convention since the Sixth Review Conference.

69. The Conference underlines that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single state not party that could possess or acquire biological weapons.

70. The Conference reiterates the high importance of universalization, in particular by affirming the particular importance of the ratification of the Convention by signatory states and accession to the Convention by those which have not signed the Convention, without delay. States Parties agree to continue to promote universalization.

71. The Conference notes that the primary responsibility for promoting the universality of the Convention rests with the States Parties. The Conference urges States Parties to take action to persuade non-parties to accede to the Convention without delay, and particularly welcomes action by States Parties and regional initiatives to provide assistance and support that would lead to wider accession to the Convention.

72. The Conference welcomes regional initiatives that would lead to wider accession and adherence to the Convention.

73. The Conference urges those States Parties, in a position to do so, to offer assistance and support to States in their preparations for ratification or accession to the Convention.

Article XV

74. The Conference welcomes the decision of the Sixth Review Conference that as well as the five languages listed in this Article, Arabic shall be considered an official language for the purposes of any meetings of the States Parties and other formal communications concerning the operation of the Convention.

III. Decisions and recommendations

A. Outcome of the 2007–2010 intersessional programme

1. In accordance with the decision taken by the Sixth Review Conference, Meetings of States Parties of one week duration were held each year, commencing in 2007, to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on six specified topics. Each meeting of States Parties was prepared by a one-week meeting of experts. The six topics were:

(a) Ways and means to enhance national implementation, including enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions.

(b) Regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation of the Convention.

(c) National, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins.

(d) Oversight, education, awareness raising, and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim of preventing misuse in the context of advances in bio-science and bio-technology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the Convention.

(e) With a view to enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases: (1) for States Parties in need of assistance, identifying requirements and requests for capacity enhancement; and (2) from States Parties in a position to do so, and international organizations, opportunities for providing assistance related to these fields.

(f) Provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, including improving national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis and public health systems.

2. The Conference notes that the meetings of States Parties and meetings of experts functioned as an important forum for exchange of national experiences and in-depth deliberations among States Parties. The meetings of States Parties engendered greater common understanding on steps to be taken to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

3. The Conference notes the contribution by the WHO, FAO, OIE and other relevant international organizations, as well as scientific and academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, to the meetings of States Parties and meetings of experts.

4. The Conference reiterates that common understandings were identified in the consensus outcome documents of the meetings of States Parties (BWC/MSP/2007/5, BWC/MSP/2008/5, BWC/MSP/2009/5 and BWC/MSP/2010/6), within their mandates.

B. Intersessional programme 2012–2015

5. Reaffirming the utility of the previous intersessional programmes from 2003–2010, the Conference decides to retain previous structures: annual Meetings of States Parties preceded by annual Meetings of Experts.

6. The purpose of the intersessional programme is to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on those issues identified for inclusion in the intersessional programme by this Seventh Review Conference.

7. Recognizing the need to balance an ambition to improve the intersessional programme within the constraints — both financial and human resources — facing States Parties, the Conference decides to continue to allocate ten days each year to the intersessional programme.

8. The Conference decides that the following topics shall be Standing Agenda Items, which will be addressed at meetings of both the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in every year from 2012–2015:

(a) Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X;

(b) Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention;

(c) Strengthening national implementation.

9. The Conference decides that the following other items will be discussed during the intersessional programme in the years indicated:

(a) How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (2012 and 2013);

(b) How to strengthen implementation of Article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States Parties (2014 and 2015).

10. The restructured Meetings of Experts will last five days, and Meetings of States Parties five days.

11. The first year's meetings will be chaired by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States, the second by a representative of the Eastern European Group, the third by a representative of the Western Group, and the fourth by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups.

12. Each Meeting of Experts will prepare for the consideration of the Meeting of States Parties a factual report reflecting its deliberations. This report will reflect work on the three Standing Agenda Items, as well as a report on the other item scheduled for discussion during that year.

13. In addition to the report of the Meeting of Experts, the Meetings of States Parties will also consider — on an annual basis — progress with universalization of the Convention and the annual reports of the Implementation Support Unit. In 2012 and 2013, the Meeting of States Parties will also consider the Meeting of Experts report on CBMs, and in 2014 and 2015, the Meeting of States Parties will consider the Meeting of Experts report on Article VII.

14. All meetings, both of experts and of States Parties, will reach any conclusions or results by consensus.

15. The Eighth Review Conference will consider the work and outcome of these meetings and decide on any further action.

C. Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X

1. Standing Agenda Item

16. The Conference decides that the following topics will be addressed under the Standing Agenda Item on cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X:

(a) reports by States Parties on their implementation of Article X, and reports by the ISU on the operation of the database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers;

(b) challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible means of overcoming these;

(c) a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions, including facilitation of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes, and identification of critical gaps and needs in these areas;

(d) ways and means to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

(e) education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;

(f) capacity-building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity, and for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation;

(g) coordination of cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

2. Database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers

17. The Conference decides to establish a database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties.

18. States Parties are invited, individually or together with other states or international organizations, to submit on a voluntary basis to the Implementation Support Unit any requirements, needs or offers for assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes. The ISU will establish and administer a database, open to all States Parties, where these requests and offers will be stored.

19. States Parties may use the database to match offers with requests for assistance and then make their own further arrangements. Once a match is made, the States Parties concerned will inform the ISU which will update the database accordingly. The ISU may also, on request, facilitate the exchange of information among States Parties relating to the database and any resulting cooperation and assistance activities.

20. The ISU will submit an annual report on the operation of the database detailing the offers made, requests sought and matches made during a calendar year. The operation of

the database will be reviewed at the Eighth Review Conference based on the reports and/or any recommendations by the meetings of States Parties.

3. Sponsorship programme

21. In order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme, the Conference decides to establish a sponsorship programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties in a position to provide them. The sponsorship programme will be administered by the Implementation Support Unit in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chairs of the Meeting of States Parties. Priority for sponsorship will be given to those States Parties which have previously not participated in the meetings, or have been unable to regularly send experts from capital. Sponsorship may also be provided, depending upon the availability of resources, to enhance participation of states not party in order to promote universalization of the Convention.

D. Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention

22. The Conference decides that the following topics will be addressed under the Standing Agenda Item on review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention:

(a) new science and technology developments that have potential for uses contrary to the provisions of the Convention;

(b) new science and technology developments that have potential benefits for the Convention, including those of special relevance to disease surveillance, diagnosis and mitigation;

(c) possible measures for strengthening national biological risk management, as appropriate, in research and development involving new science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention;

(d) voluntary codes of conduct and other measures to encourage responsible conduct by scientists, academia and industry;

(e) education and awareness-raising about risks and benefits of life sciences and biotechnology.

(f) science- and technology-related developments relevant to the activities of multilateral organizations such as the WHO, OIE, FAO, IPPC and OPCW;

(g) any other science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention.

23. The following topical scientific subjects will be considered in the years indicated:

(a) advances in enabling technologies, including high-throughput systems for sequencing, synthesizing and analyzing DNA; bioinformatics and computational tools; and systems biology (to be considered in 2012);

(b) advances in technologies for surveillance, detection, diagnosis and mitigation of infectious diseases, and similar occurrences caused by toxins in humans, animals and plants (to be considered in 2013).

(c) advances in the understanding of pathogenicity, virulence, toxicology, immunology and related issues (to be considered in 2014);

(d) advances in production, dispersal and delivery technologies of biological agents and toxins (to be considered in 2015);

E. Strengthening national implementation

24. The Conference decides that the following topics will be addressed under the Standing Agenda Item on strengthening national implementation:

(a) a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention, especially Articles III and IV;

(b) ways and means to enhance national implementation, sharing best practices and experiences, including the voluntary exchange of information among States Parties on their national implementation, enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions;

(c) regional and sub-regional cooperation that can assist national implementation of the Convention;

(d) national, regional and international measures to improve laboratory biosafety and security of pathogens and toxins;

(e) any potential further measures, as appropriate, relevant for implementation of the Convention.

F. Confidence-building measures

25. The Conference notes that the review of Article V of the Convention has shown the need for further enhancing participation of States Parties in the confidence-building measures (CBMs). The Conference therefore decides:

(a) to adopt the revised reporting forms in Annex I as the basis for all CBM submissions from States Parties;

(b) to consider during the 2012–2015 intersessional programme how to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (see section B above);

(c) that the Implementation Support Unit shall, in cooperation with States Parties, continue to examine and develop options for electronic means of submission of CBMs.

26. The Conference calls upon States Parties that have not yet done so to designate a national point of contact responsible preparing the submission of CBMs, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference.

G. Promotion of universalization

27. The Conference notes that although the Convention is a cornerstone of international security, and despite the efforts of the States Parties and the Chairs of the meetings of States Parties with the administrative support of the ISU since the Sixth Review Conference, with only 165 States Parties, membership of the Convention still falls behind other major multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. The Conference agrees that a further concerted effort by States Parties is needed to persuade states not party to join the Convention.

28. The Conference therefore requests States Parties to:

(a) promote universalization of the Convention through bilateral contacts with states not party;

(b) promote universalization of the Convention through regional and multilateral fora and activities;

(c) report, as appropriate, on their activities at annual meetings of States Parties;

(d) provide, as appropriate, the ISU with relevant information on activities related to the promotion of universalization of the Convention.

29. The Conference decides that the Chairs of meetings of States Parties shall coordinate universalization activities, address states not party to the Convention, provide an annual report on universalization activities at meetings of States Parties, and provide a progress report to the Eighth Review Conference. Bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the States Parties on the implementation of this decision, the Conference tasks the Implementation Support Unit to:

(a) provide administrative support to the Chairs of meetings of States Parties in the implementation of this decision;

(b) consolidate and make available information on progress made by states not party towards ratification or accession.

30. The Conference encourages States Parties to give more attention to states in which the ratification or accession process have started or are well advanced, and to those states waiting for further information or assistance or that have other priorities, as described in the annual reports on universalization.

H. Implementation Support Unit

31. The Conference notes that the Implementation Support Unit, which was established by the Sixth Review Conference in order to provide administrative support to meetings agreed by the Review Conference as well as support for the comprehensive implementation and universalization of the Convention and the exchange of confidence-building measures, has successfully discharged its mandate. The Conference therefore decides to renew the mandate of the Unit, *mutatis mutandis*, for the period from 2012 to 2016.

32. The Conference decides that, in addition to the tasks mandated by the Sixth Review Conference, the ISU will perform the following tasks:

(a) implement the decision to establish and administer the database for assistance requests and offers, and facilitating the associated exchange of information among States Parties;

(b) support, as appropriate, the implementation by the States Parties of the decisions and recommendations of this Review Conference.

33. The Conference notes that States Parties in a position to do so may consider making voluntary contributions to the Unit to enhance its ability to carry out its mandated tasks. Any such contributions will be made in full transparency, will be detailed in the annual report of the ISU, and will be used exclusively for the mandated tasks of the Unit.

34. The Conference notes that all staff of the ISU will be engaged through the relevant recruitment procedures of the United Nations, considering the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and paying due regard to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

35. The Conference further notes the need to seek to ensure the widest geographic balance possible in staffing the ISU in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

36. The ISU will submit a concise annual written report to all States Parties on its activities to implement its mandate. The Unit's performance will be evaluated and its mandate will be reviewed by States Parties at the Eighth Review Conference.

I. Finances

37. The Conference decides that the costs of the intersessional programme will be shared by all States Parties to the Convention, based on the United Nations scale of assessment pro-rated to take into account differences in membership between the Convention and the United Nations.

38. The Conference approves the estimated costs for the intersessional programme for the period 2012 to 2015, as contained in BWC/CONF.VII/4/Rev.1, noting that these estimated costs were prepared on exactly the same basis as the estimated costs for the 2007–2010 intersessional programme, and therefore represent zero real growth, with any nominal increase due solely to currency and inflation factors. The Conference requests States Parties to proceed with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment notices have been received from the United Nations.

Annex I

Revised forms for the submission of the Confidence-Building Measures

At the Third Review Conference it was agreed that all States Parties present the following declaration, later amended by the Seventh Review Conference:

Declaration form on Nothing to Declare or Nothing New to Declare for use in the information exchange

Measure	Nothing to declare	Nothing new to declare	Year of last declaration if nothing new to declare
A, part 1	☐	☐	☐
A, part 2 (i)	☐	☐	☐
A, part 2 (ii)	☐	☐	☐
A, part 2 (iii)	☐	☐	☐
B	☐	☐	☐
C	☐	☐	☐
E	☐	☐	☐
F	☐	☐	☐
G	☐	☐	☐

(Please mark the appropriate box(es) for each measure with a tick, and fill in the year of last declaration in the last column where applicable.)

Date: _____

State Party to the Convention: _____

Date of ratification/accession to the Convention: _____

National point of contact: _____ _____

Active promotion of contacts

The Third Review Conference agreed that States parties continue to implement the following:

"Active promotion of contacts between scientists, other experts and facilities engaged in biological research directly related to the Convention, including exchanges and visits for joint research on a mutually agreed basis."

In order to actively promote professional contacts between scientists, joint research projects and other activities aimed at preventing or reducing the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions and at improving international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities, the Seventh Review Conference encouraged States parties to share forward looking information, to the extent possible,

- on planned international conferences, seminars, symposia and similar events dealing with biological research directly related to the Convention, and

- on other opportunities for exchange of scientists, joint research or other measures to promote contacts between scientists engaged in biological research directly related to the Convention,

including through the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Confidence-Building Measure "A"

Part 1 Exchange of data on research centres and laboratories

At the Third Review Conference it was agreed that States Parties continue to implement the following:

"Exchange of data, including name, location, scope and general description of activities, on research centres and laboratories that meet very high national or international safety standards established for handling, for permitted purposes, biological materials that pose a high individual and community risk or specialize in permitted biological activities directly related to the Convention."

Modalities

The Third Review Conference agreed on the following, later amended by the Seventh Review Conference:

Data should be provided by States Parties on each facility, within their territory or under their jurisdiction or control anywhere, which has any maximum containment laboratories meeting those criteria for such maximum containment laboratories as specified in the latest edition of the WHO[1] Laboratory Biosafety Manual and/or OIE[2] Terrestrial Manual or other equivalent guidelines adopted by relevant international organisations, such as those designated as biosafety level 4 (BL4, BSL4 or P4) or equivalent standards.

States Parties that do not possess a facility meeting criteria for such maximum containment should continue to Form A, part 1 (ii).

Form A, part 1 (i)

Exchange of data on research centres and laboratories[3]

1. Name(s) of facility[4] _____

2. Responsible public or private _____
   organization or company _____

3. Location and postal address _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

4. Source(s) of financing of the reported activity, including indication if the activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence

[1] World Health Organization
[2] World Organization for Animal Health
[3] The containment units which are fixed patient treatment modules, integrated with laboratories, should be identified separately.
[4] For facilities with maximum containment units participating in the national biological defence research and development programme, please fill in name of facility and mark "Declared in accordance with Form A, part 2 (iii)".

_____

5. Number of maximum containment units[5] within the research centre and/or laboratory, with an indication of their respective size (m^2)

_____

6. Scope and general description of activities, including type(s) of micro-organisms and/or toxins as appropriate

_____

_____

_____

Form A, part 1 (ii)

If no BSL4 facility is declared in Form A, part 1 (i), indicate the highest biosafety level implemented in facilities handling biological agents[6] on a State Party's territory:

Biosafety level 3[7]	yes / no
Biosafety level 2[8] (if applicable)	yes / no

Any additional relevant information as appropriate:

_____

_____

_____

_____

[5] In accordance with the latest edition of the WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual, or equivalent.
[6] Microorganisms pathogenic to humans and/or animals
[7] In accordance with the latest edition of the WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual and/or the OIE Terrestrial Manual or other equivalent internationally accepted guidelines.
[8] In accordance with the latest edition of the WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual and/or the OIE Terrestrial Manual or other equivalent internationally accepted guidelines.

Part 2 Exchange of information on national biological defence research and development programmes

At the Third Review Conference it was agreed that States Parties are to implement the following:

In the interest of increasing the transparency of national research and development programmes on biological defence, the States Parties will declare whether or not they conduct such programmes. States Parties agreed to provide, annually, detailed information on their biological defence research and development programmes including summaries of the objectives and costs of effort performed by contractors and in other facilities. If no biological defence research and development programme is being conducted, a null report will be provided.

States Parties will make declarations in accordance with the attached forms, which require the following information:

(1) The objective and summary of the research and development activities under way indicating whether work is conducted in the following areas: prophylaxis, studies on pathogenicity and virulence, diagnostic techniques, aerobiology, detection, treatment, toxinology, physical protection, decontamination and other related research;

(2) Whether contractor or other non-defence facilities are utilized and the total funding provided to that portion of the programme;

(3) The organizational structure of the programme and its reporting relationships; and

(4) The following information concerning the defence and other governmental facilities in which the biological defence research and development programme is concentrated;

(a) location;

(b) the floor areas (sqM) of the facilities including that dedicated to each of BL2, BL3 and BL4 level laboratories;

(c) the total number of staff employed, including those contracted full time for more than six months;

(d) numbers of staff reported in (c) by the following categories: civilian, military, scientists, technicians, engineers, support and administrative staff;

(e) a list of the scientific disciplines of the scientific/engineering staff;

(f) the source and funding levels in the following three areas: research, development, and test and evaluation; and

(g) the policy regarding publication and a list of publicly-available papers and reports.

Form A, part 2 (i)

National biological defence research and development programmes Declaration

Are there any national programmes to conduct biological defence research and development within the territory of the State Party, under its jurisdiction or control anywhere? Activities of such programmes would include prophylaxis, studies on

pathogenicity and virulence, diagnostic techniques, aerobiology, detection, treatment, toxinology, physical protection, decontamination and other related research.

Yes/No

If the answer is Yes, complete Form A, part 2 (ii) which will provide a description of each programme.

Form A, part 2 (ii)

National biological defence research and development programmes

Description

1. State the objectives and funding of each programme and summarize the principal research and development activities conducted in the programme. Areas to be addressed shall include: prophylaxis, studies on pathogenicity and virulence, diagnostic techniques, aerobiology, detection, treatment, toxinology, physical protection, decontamination and other related research.

2. State the total funding for each programme and its source.

3. Are aspects of these programmes conducted under contract with industry, academic institutions, or in other non-defence facilities?

Yes/No

4. If yes, what proportion of the total funds for each programme is expended in these contracted or other facilities?

5. Summarize the objectives and research areas of each programme performed by contractors and in other facilities with the funds identified under paragraph 4.

6. Provide a diagram of the organizational structure of each programme and the reporting relationships (include individual facilities participating in the programme).

7. Provide a declaration in accordance with Form A, part 2 (iii) for each facility, both governmental and non-governmental, which has a substantial proportion of its resources devoted to each national biological defence research and development programme, within the territory of the reporting State, or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere.

Form A, part 2 (iii)

National biological defence research and development programmes

Facilities

Complete a form for each facility declared in accordance with paragraph 7 in Form A, part 2 (ii).

In shared facilities, provide the following information for the biological defence research and development portion only.

1. What is the name of the facility?

2. Where is it located (include both address and geographical location)?

3. Floor area of laboratory areas by containment level:

BL2 _____ (sqM)

BL3 _____ (sqM)

BL4 _____ (sqM)

Total laboratory floor area _____ (sqM)

4. The organizational structure of each facility.

(i) Total number of personnel _____

(ii) Division of personnel:

Military _____

Civilian _____

(iii) Division of personnel by category:

Scientists _____

Engineers _____

Technicians _____

Administrative and support staff _____

(iv) List the scientific disciplines represented in the scientific/engineering staff.

(v) Are contractor staff working in the facility? If so, provide an approximate number.

(vi) What is (are) the source(s) of funding for the work conducted in the facility, including indication if activity is wholly or partly financed by the Ministry of Defence?

(vii) What are the funding levels for the following programme areas:

Research _____

Development _____

Test and evaluation _____

(viii) Briefly describe the publication policy of the facility:

(ix) Provide a list of publicly-available papers and reports resulting from the work published during the previous 12 months. (To include authors, titles and full references.)

5. Briefly describe the biological defence work carried out at the facility, including type(s) of micro-organisms[9] and/or toxins studied, as well as outdoor studies of biological aerosols.

[9] Including viruses and prions.

Confidence-Building Measure "B"

Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins

At the Third Review Conference it was agreed that States Parties continue to implement the following:

> Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins, and on all such events that seem to deviate from the normal pattern as regards type, development, place, or time of occurrence. The information provided on events that deviate from the norm will include, as soon as it is available, data on the type of disease, approximate area affected, and number of cases.

The Seventh Review Conference agreed the following:

> No universal standards exist for what might constitute a deviation from the normal pattern.

Modalities

The Third Review Conference agreed on the following, later amended by the Seventh Review Conference:

1. Exchange of data on outbreaks that seem to deviate from the normal pattern is considered particularly important in the following cases:

- When the cause of the outbreak cannot be readily determined or the causative agent[10] is difficult to diagnose,

- When the disease may be caused by organisms which meet the criteria for risk groups III or IV, according to the classification in the latest edition of the WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual,

- When the causative agent is exotic to a given geographical region,

- When the disease follows an unusual pattern of development,

- When the disease occurs in the vicinity of research centres and laboratories subject to exchange of data under item A,

- When suspicions arise of the possible occurrence of a new disease.

2. In order to enhance confidence, an initial report of an outbreak of an infectious disease or a similar occurrence that seems to deviate from the normal pattern should be given promptly after cognizance of the outbreak and should be followed up by annual reports. To enable States Parties to follow a standardized procedure, the Conference has agreed that Form B should be used, to the extent information is known and/or applicable, for the exchange of annual information.

3. The declaration of electronic links to national websites or to websites of international, regional or other organizations which provide information on disease outbreaks (notably outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by

[10] It is understood that this may include organisms made pathogenic by molecular biology techniques, such as genetic engineering.

toxins that seem to deviate from the normal pattern) may also satisfy the declaration requirement under Form B.

4. In order to improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities and in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions, States Parties are encouraged to invite experts from other States Parties to assist in the handling of an outbreak, and to respond favourably to such invitations, respecting applicable national legislation and relevant international instruments.

Form B

Information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences, that seem to deviate from the normal pattern[11]

1. Time of cognizance of the outbreak _____
2. Location and approximate area affected _____
3. Type of disease/intoxication _____
4. Suspected source of disease/intoxication _____
5. Possible causative agent(s) _____
6. Main characteristics of systems _____
7. Detailed symptoms, when applicable _____
- respiratory _____
- circulatory _____
- neurological/behavioural _____
- intestinal _____
- dermatological _____
- nephrological _____
- other _____
8. Deviation(s) from the normal pattern as regards
- type _____
- development _____
- place of occurrence _____
- time of occurrence _____
- symptoms _____
- virulence pattern _____
- drug resistance pattern _____
- agent(s) difficult to diagnose _____
- presence of unusual vectors _____
- other _____
9. Approximate number of primary cases _____
10. Approximate number of total cases _____
11. Number of deaths _____
12. Development of the outbreak _____
13. Measures taken _____

[11] See paragraph 2 of the chapeau to Confidence-Building Measure B.

Confidence-Building Measure "C"

Encouragement of publication of results and promotion of use of knowledge

At the Third Review Conference it was agreed that States parties continue to implement the following:

> Encouragement of publication of results of biological research directly related to the Convention, in scientific journals generally available to States parties, as well as promotion of use for permitted purposes of knowledge gained in this research.

Modalities

The Third Review Conference agreed on the following:

1. It is recommended that basic research in biosciences, and particularly that directly related to the Convention should generally be unclassified and that applied research to the extent possible, without infringing on national and commercial interests, should also be unclassified.

2. States parties are encouraged to provide information on their policy as regards publication of results of biological research, indicating, *inter alia*, their policies as regards publication of results of research carried out in research centres and laboratories subject to exchange of information under item A and publication of research on outbreaks of diseases covered by item B, and to provide information on relevant scientific journals and other relevant scientific publications generally available to States parties.

3. The Third Review Conference discussed the question of cooperation and assistance as regards the safe handling of biological material covered by the Convention. It concluded that other international forums were engaged in this field and expressed its support for efforts aimed at enhancing such cooperation.

Confidence-Building Measure "D"

(Deleted)

Confidence-Building Measure "E"

Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures

At the Third Review Conference the States parties agreed to implement the following, later amended by the Seventh Review Conference:

As an indication of the measures which they have taken to implement the Convention, States parties shall declare whether they have legislation, regulations or other measures:

(a) To prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I of the Convention, within their territory or anywhere under their jurisdiction or under their control anywhere;

(b) In relation to the export or import of micro-organisms pathogenic to man, animals and plants or of toxins in accordance with the Convention;

(c) In relation to biosafety and biosecurity.

States parties shall complete the attached form (Form E) and shall be prepared to submit copies of the legislation or regulations, or written details of other measures on request to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs or to an individual State party. On an annual basis States parties shall indicate, also on the attached form, whether or not there has been any amendment to their legislation, regulations or other measures.

Form E

Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures

Relating to	Legislation	Regulations	Other measures[12]	Amended since last year
(a) Development, production stockpiling, acquisition or retention of microbial or other biological agents, or toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
(b) Exports of micro-organisms[13] and toxins	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
(c) Imports of micro-organisms[11] and toxins	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
(d) Biosafety[14] and biosecurity[15]	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

[12] Including guidelines.

[13] Micro-organisms pathogenic to man, animals and plants in accordance with the Convention.

[14] In accordance with the latest version of the WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual or equivalent national or international guidance.

[15] In accordance with the latest version of the WHO Laboratory Biosecurity Guidance or equivalent national or international guidance.

Confidence-Building Measure "F"

Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes

In the interest of increasing transparency and openness, States parties shall declare whether or not they conducted any offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes since 1 January 1946.

If so, States parties shall provide information on such programmes, in accordance with Form F.

Form F

Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes

1. Date of entry into force of the Convention for the State Party.

2. Past offensive biological research and development programmes:

- Yes/No

- Period(s) of activities

- Summary of the research and development activities indicating whether work was performed concerning production, test and evaluation, weaponization, stockpiling of biological agents, the destruction programme of such agents and weapons, and other related research.

3. Past defensive biological research and development programmes:

- Yes/No

- Period(s) of activities

- Summary of the research and development activities indicating whether or not work was conducted in the following areas: prophylaxis, studies on pathogenicity and virulence, diagnostic techniques, aerobiology, detection, treatment, toxinology, physical protection, decontamination, and other related research, with location if possible.

Confidence-Building Measure "G"

Declaration of vaccine production facilities

To further increase the transparency of biological research and development related to the Convention and to broaden scientific and technical knowledge as agreed in Article X, each State party will declare all facilities, both governmental and non-governmental, within its territory or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, producing vaccines licensed by the State party for the protection of humans. Information shall be provided on Form G attached.

Form G

Declaration of vaccine production facilities

1. Name of facility:

2. Location (mailing address):

3. General description of the types of diseases covered:

Annex II

Agenda of the Conference

1. Opening of the Conference

2. Election of the President

3. Adoption of the agenda

4. Submission of the final report of the Preparatory Committee

5. Adoption of the rules of procedure

6. Election of the Vice-Presidents of the Conference and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

   (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee

8. Confirmation of the nomination of the Secretary-General

9. Programme of work

10. Review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in its Article XII

    (a) General debate

    (b) Articles I-XV

    (c) Preambular paragraphs and purposes of the Convention

11. Consideration of issues identified in the review of the operation of the Convention as provided for in its Article XII and any possible consensus follow-up action

12. Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the Sixth Review Conference and the question of future review of the Convention

13. Other matters

14. Report of the Committee of the Whole

15. Report of the Drafting Committee

16. Preparation and adoption of the final document(s)

Annex III

Rules of procedure of the Conference

I. Representation and credentials

A. Delegations of Parties to the Convention

Rule 1

1. Each State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (hereinafter "the Convention") may be represented at the Conference by a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

2. The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

B. Credentials

Rule 2

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. Credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

C. Credentials Committee

Rule 3

The Conference shall establish a Credentials Committee composed of the Chairman, one Vice-Chairman elected in accordance with rule 5, and five members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President. The Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

D. Provisional participation

Rule 4

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. Officers

A. Election

Rule 5

The Conference shall elect the following officers: a President and 20 Vice-Presidents as well as a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen for the Committee of the Whole, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Drafting Committee and a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the Credentials Committee.

B. Acting President

Rule 6

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate a Vice-President to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

C. Voting rights of the President

Rule 7

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote, but shall appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. General Committee

A. Composition

Rule 8

1. The General Committee shall be composed of the President of the Conference, who shall preside, 20 Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the Chairman of the Credentials Committee. No two members of the General Committee shall be members of the same delegation and it shall be so constituted as to ensure its representative character.

2. If the President is unable to attend a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a Vice-President to preside at such meeting and a member of his delegation to take his place. If a Vice-President is unable to attend, he may designate a member of his delegation to take his place. If the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee or the Credentials Committee is unable to attend, he may designate one of the Vice-Chairmen or the Vice-Chairman, as appropriate, to take his place, with the right to vote unless he is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

B. Functions

Rule 9

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. Conference Secretariat

A. Duties of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Rule 10

1. There shall be a Secretary-General of the Conference. He shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference, its committees and other appropriate bodies established under rule 34, and may designate a member of the Secretariat to act in his place at these meetings.

2. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

B. Duties of the Secretariat

Rule 11

The Secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) receive, translate and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) publish and circulate any report of the Conference;

(d) make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings and summary records of meetings;

(e) arrange for the custody of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations and provide authentic copies of these documents to each of the depositary Governments; and

(f) generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

C. Costs

Rule 12[16]

The costs of the Review Conference, including the session of the Preparatory Committee, will be met by the States Parties to the Convention participating in the Review Conference in accordance with the United Nations assessment scale pro-rated to take into account differences between the United Nations membership and the number of States Parties participating in the Conference. States which have signed but not yet ratified the

[16] It is understood that all financial arrangements for the Review Conference do not constitute a precedent.

Convention and which accept the invitation to take part in the Review Conference as provided by rule 44.1 will share in the costs to the extent of their respective rates of assessment under the United Nations scale. For States Parties or signatories which are not members of the United Nations the share will be determined on the basis of the similarly pro-rated scale in force for determining this share in the activities in which they take part.

V. Conduct of business

A. Quorum

Rule 13

A majority of the States Parties to the Convention participating in the Conference shall constitute a quorum.

B. General powers of the President

Rule 14

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, he shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, ascertain consensus, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each State may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

C. Points of order

Rule 15

A representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

D. Speeches

Rule 16

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 15, 17 and 19-22, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.

2. Debate shall be confined to the subject under discussion and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant thereto.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to speakers and the number of times the representative of each State may speak on a question; permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, the President shall limit interventions on procedural questions to a maximum of five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

E. Precedence

Rule 17

The Chairman of a committee may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusion arrived at by his committee.

F. Closing of list of speakers

Rule 18

During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure pursuant to rule 22.

G. Right of reply

Rule 19

Notwithstanding rule 18, the President may accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference. Such statements shall be as brief as possible and shall, as a general rule, be delivered at the end of the last meeting of the day.

H. Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 20

A representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 23, be immediately put to the vote.

I. Adjournment of debate

Rule 21

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the adjournment after which the motion shall, subject to rule 23, be immediately put to the vote.

J. Closure of debate

Rule 22

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 23, be immediately put to the vote.

K. Order of motions

Rule 23

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) to suspend the meeting;

(b) to adjourn the meeting;

(c) to adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) to close the debate on the question under discussion.

L. Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 24

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, proposals and substantive amendments shall be discussed or decided on no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations.

M. Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 25

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsors at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

N. Decision on competence

Rule 26

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it, shall be decided upon before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

O. Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 27

Proposals adopted by consensus may not be reconsidered unless the Conference reaches a consensus on such reconsideration. When a proposal has been adopted or rejected by a majority or two-thirds vote, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

VI. Voting and elections

A. Adoption of decisions

Rule 28

1. Decisions on matters of procedure and in elections shall be taken by a majority of representatives present and voting.

2. The task of the Review Conference being to review the operation of the Convention with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention are being realized, and thus to strengthen its effectiveness, every effort should be made to reach agreement on substantive matters by means of consensus. There should be no voting on such matters until all efforts to achieve consensus have been exhausted.

3. If, notwithstanding the best efforts of delegates to achieve consensus, a matter of substance comes up for voting, the President shall defer the vote for 48 hours and during this period of deferment shall make every effort, with the assistance of the General Committee, to facilitate the achievement of general agreement, and shall report to the Conference prior to the end of the period.

4. If by the end of the period of deferment the Conference has not reached agreement, voting shall take place and decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, providing that such majority shall include at least a majority of the States participating in the Conference.

5. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall immediately be put to the vote and the President's ruling shall stand unless the appeal is approved by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

6. In cases where a vote is taken in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 4 above, the relevant rules of procedure relating to voting of the General Assembly of the United Nations shall apply, except as otherwise specifically provided herein.

B. Voting rights

Rule 29

Every State Party to the Convention shall have one vote.

C. Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 30

For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

D. Elections

Rule 31

All elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Conference decides otherwise in an election where the number of candidates does not exceed the number of elective places to be filled.

Rule 32

1. If, when only one elective place is to be filled, no candidate obtains in the first ballot the majority required, a second ballot shall be taken, confined to the two candidates having obtained the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the President shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.

2. In the case of a tie in the first ballot among the candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held among such candidates for the purpose of reducing their number to two; similarly, in the case of a tie among three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held, if a tie again results in the special ballot, the President shall eliminate one candidate by drawing lots and thereafter another ballot shall be held in accordance with paragraph 1.

Rule 33

1. When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot the majority required and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, provided that if only one place remains to be filled the procedures in rule 32 shall be applied. The ballot shall be restricted to the unsuccessful candidates having obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, but not exceeding twice the number of places remaining to be filled. However, in the case of a tie between a greater number of unsuccessful candidates a special ballot shall be held for the purpose of reducing the number of candidates to the required number; if a tie again results among more than the required number of candidates, the President shall reduce their number to that required by drawing lots.

3. If such a restricted ballot (not counting a special ballot held under the conditions specified in the last sentence of paragraph 2) is inconclusive, the President shall decide among the candidates by drawing lots.

VII. Other appropriate bodies of the Conference

Rule 34

The Conference may establish appropriate bodies. As a general rule each State Party to the Convention participating in the Conference may be represented in those bodies unless otherwise decided.

A. Committee of the Whole

Rule 35

The Conference shall establish a Committee of the Whole to consider in detail the substantive issues relevant to the Convention with a view to facilitating the work of the Conference.

B. Drafting Committee

Rule 36

1. The Conference shall establish a Drafting Committee composed of representatives of the same States which are represented on the General Committee. It shall coordinate the drafting of and edit all texts referred to it by the Conference. It shall also, without reopening substantive discussion on any matter, formulate drafts and give advice on drafting as requested by the Conference.

2. Representatives of delegations proposing texts referred to the Drafting Committee in conformity with paragraph 1 of this rule shall be entitled to participate, at their request, in the discussion of those texts in the Drafting Committee.

3. Representatives of other delegations may also attend the meetings of the Drafting Committee and may participate in its deliberations when matters of particular concern to them are under discussion.

VIII. Officers and procedures

Rule 37

The rules relating to officers, the Conference Secretariat, conduct of business and voting of the Conference (contained in chaps. II (rules 5-7), IV (rules 10-11), V (rules 13-27) and VI (rules 28-33) above) shall be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of committees and other appropriate bodies, except that:

(a) unless otherwise decided, any body established under rule 34 shall elect a chairman and such other officers as it may require;

(b) the Chairmen of the General Committee, the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee and the chairmen of bodies established under rule 34 may vote in their capacity as representatives of their States;

(c) a majority of the representatives on the General Committee, the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee or the Credentials Committee shall constitute a quorum; the same may apply to any body established under rule 34 if the Conference so desires.

IX. Languages and records

A. Languages of the Conference

Rule 38

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages of the Conference.

B. Interpretation

Rule 39

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other languages.

2. A representative may make a speech in a language other than a language of the Conference if he provides for interpretation into one such language. Interpretation into the other languages of the Conference by interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

C. Language of official documents

Rule 40

Official documents shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

D. Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 41

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of all committees shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any other appropriate body established under rule 34.

E. Summary records

Rule 42

1. Summary Records of the plenary meetings of the Conference, excluding that part of those meetings devoted to consideration of agenda item 10(a), general debate, shall be prepared by the Secretariat. Such records shall be produced in the languages of the Conference. They shall be distributed in provisional form as soon as possible to all participants in the Conference. Participants in the debate may, within three working days of receipt of provisional summary records, submit corrections on summaries of their own interventions to the Secretariat; in special circumstances, the presiding officer may, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, extend the time for submitting corrections. Any disagreement concerning such corrections shall be decided by the presiding officer of the body to which the record relates, after consulting, where necessary, the sound recordings of the proceedings. Separate corrigenda to provisional records shall not normally be issued.

2. The summary records, with any corrections incorporated, shall be distributed promptly to participants in the Conference.

X. Public and private meetings

Rule 43

1. The plenary meetings of the Conference shall be held in public unless otherwise decided.

2. Meetings of the Committees and any other appropriate body established under rule 34 shall be held in private.

XI. Participation and attendance

Rule 44

1. Signatories

Any State signatory to the Convention which has not yet ratified it shall be entitled to participate, without taking part in the adoption of decisions, whether by consensus or by vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, subject to prior written notification to the Secretary-General of the Conference. This means that any of those signatory States shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Conference; to address plenary meetings; to receive the document of the Conference and to submit its views in writing to the Conference, which shall be considered as Conference documents.

2. Observers

(a) Any other State which, in accordance with article XIV of the Convention, has the right to become a Party thereto but which has neither signed nor ratified it may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for Observer status, which will be accorded on the decision of the Conference.[17] Such a State shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the Plenary other than those designated closed meetings, and to receive documents of the Conference. An Observer State shall also be entitled to submit documents to the participants in the Conference.

(b) Any national liberation organization entitled by the General Assembly of the United Nations[18] to participate as an Observer in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, all international conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, and all international conferences convened under the auspices of other organs of the United Nations, may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for Observer status, which will be accorded on the decision of the Conference. Such a liberation organization shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the Plenary and of the Committee of the Whole other than those designated closed meetings, and to receive documents of the Conference. An Observer organization shall also be entitled to submit documents to the participants in the Conference.

[17] It is understood that any such decision will be in accordance with the practice of the United Nations General Assembly.

[18] Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974.

3. The United Nations

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative or representatives shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Plenary and any other appropriate body established under rule 34 and to receive the Conference documents. They shall also be entitled to submit material, both orally and in writing.

4. Specialized agencies and regional intergovernmental organizations

The specialized agencies as well as regional intergovernmental organizations may apply to the Secretary-General of the Conference for Observer Agency status which will be accorded on the decision of the Conference. An Observer Agency shall be entitled to appoint officials to attend meetings of the Plenary other than those designated closed meetings and to receive the documents of the Conference. The Conference may also invite them to submit, in writing, their views and comments on questions within their competence, which may be circulated as Conference documents.

5. Non-governmental organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations who attend meetings of the Plenary will be entitled upon request to receive the documents of the Conference.

Annex IV

List of documents of the Conference

Symbol	*Title*
BWC/CONF.VII/1	Provisional agenda – as recommended by the Preparatory Committee
BWC/CONF.VII/2	Provisional indicative programme of work – submitted by the President-designate
BWC/CONF.VII/3 and Corr.1 [English only]	2011 report of the Implementation Support Unit – submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/4 and Rev.1	Estimated costs of the intersessional programme of the Convention to be held from 2012–2015
BWC/CONF.VII/5	Report of the Committee of the Whole
BWC/CONF.VII/6	Report of the Credentials Committee
BWC/CONF.VII/7	Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.1	New scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.2 and Add.1 [English only]	Compliance by States Parties with their obligations under the Convention. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.3 and Corr1-Corr.2, Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add2–Add.3 [English only]	New scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.4	Developments since the last Review Conference in other international organizations which may be relevant to the Convention. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.5	Additional understandings and agreements reached by previous Review Conferences relating to each article of the Convention. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.6	Common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2007 to 2010. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.7 and Add.1 [English only]	Status of universalization of the Convention. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit

Symbol	*Title*
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.8 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Corr.1 [English only]	Implementation of Article X of the Convention. Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.9	Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in connection with the Seventh Review Conference 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. Submitted by Belarus on behalf of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.10 [English only]	Implementation of Article X of the BTWC – some illustrative contributions. Submitted by the European Union
BWC/CONF.VII/INF.11 and Add.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	List of participants
BWC/CONF.VII/CRP.1 [English only]	Elements for the draft final document. Submitted by the President
BWC/CONF.VII/CRP.2 [English only]	Draft Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference. Submitted by the President
BWC/CONF.VII/MISC.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	Provisional list of participants
BWC/CONF.VII/COW/INF.1 and Add.1–Add.3 [English only]	Proposals made to the Committee of the Whole. Submitted by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole
BWC/CONF.VII/COW/INF.2/Rev.1 [English only]	Combined proposals made to the Committee of the Whole. Submitted by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole
BWC/CONF.VII/COW/CRP.1 [English only]	Draft Report of the Committee of the Whole
BWC/CONF.VII/COW/CRP.2 [English only]	Outline of the Draft Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference. Submitted by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.1	Article VII: options for implementation and proposal for intersessional work. Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.2	Illustrative model intersessional work programme: a proposal for task group structure and agenda items. Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.3	Proposal for structured and systematic review of science and technology developments under the Convention. Submitted by India

Symbol	*Title*
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.4	Strengthening biosafety and security while the convergence of biology and chemistry has increased: building joint responses between the BTWC and CWC regimes against misuse of biological and chemical agents. Submitted by Poland
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.5/Rev.1	Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention. Submitted by Iraq
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.6	Confidence-Building Measures: proposal for modification of Form D. Submitted by Belgium
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.7	Biorisk management standards and their role in BTWC implementation. Submitted by Belgium
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.8	Finnish biothreat preparedness. Submitted by Finland
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.9	Review and update of the Confidence-Building Measures. Submitted by Germany, Norway and Switzerland
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.10	Decision-making in a future BTWC intersessional work programme. Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.11	Proposal for a working group to address compliance issues. Submitted by Australia, Japan and New Zealand
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.12	A proposal for the next intersessional period 2012-2015. Submitted by Australia, Japan and New Zealand
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.13	Proposal for the annual review of advances in science and technology relevant to the Biological Weapons Convention. Submitted by Australia, Japan and New Zealand
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.14	Confidence building and compliance: two different approaches. Submitted by Germany
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.15	The "Intersessional Bureau": a new element to solidify BWC work in Geneva – submitted by Germany
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.16	Mechanism for advancing the implementation of Article X. Submitted by South Africa
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.17	Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit: future planning. Submitted by South Africa
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.18	Proposal for the intersessional process. Submitted by South Africa
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.19	Confidence-Building Measures. Submitted by South Africa
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.20 and Rev.1	Possible approaches to education and awareness-raising among life scientists. Submitted by Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Switzerland (on behalf of the “JACKSNNZ”), Kenya, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America

Symbol	*Title*
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.21	Confidence Building Measures. Submitted by Norway, Switzerland and New Zealand
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.22	Role of the ISU. Submitted by Japan
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.23	The next intersessional process. Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.24	China's views on strengthening the effectiveness of the BWC. Submitted by China
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.25	Strengthening the existing Confidence-Building Measure submission and review process. Submitted by Canada
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.26 and Corr.1	The establishment of a mechanism to promote the full effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X of the Convention. Submitted by Cuba on behalf of the Group of the Non-aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.27	Fostering stakeholder accountability. Submitted by France
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.28	A peer review mechanism for the Biological Weapons Convention: enhancing confidence in national implementation and international cooperation. Submitted by France
BWC/CONF.VII/WP.29	The full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X. Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran
BWC/CONF.VII/SR.1	Summary record (partial) of the 1st meeting
BWC/CONF.VII/SR.2	Summary record of the 2nd meeting
BWC/CONF.VII/SR.3	Summary record of the final meeting