

Second Meeting
Geneva, 6-10 December 2004

Meeting of Experts
Geneva, 19-30 July 2004
Item 7 of the agenda

DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS

Introduction

1. The Final Document of the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC/CONF.V/17), in the section dealing with Decisions and Recommendations, contained the following decision:

“The Conference decided, by consensus, as follows:

- (a) To hold three annual meetings of the States Parties of one week duration each year commencing in 2003 until the Sixth Review Conference, to be held not later than the end of 2006, to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on:
 - i. the adoption of necessary national measures to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Convention, including the enactment of penal legislation;
 - ii. national mechanisms to establish and maintain the security and oversight of pathogenic microorganisms and toxins;
 - iii. enhancing international capabilities for responding to, investigating and mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of disease;
 - iv. strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals, and plants;
 - v. the content, promulgation, and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists.

- (b) All meetings, both of experts and of States Parties, will reach any conclusions or results by consensus.
- (c) Each meeting of the States Parties will be prepared by a two week meeting of experts. The topics for consideration at each annual meeting of States Parties will be as follows: items i and ii will be considered in 2003; items iii and iv in 2004; item v in 2005. The first meeting will be chaired by a representative of the Eastern Group, the second by a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned and Other States, and the third by a representative of the Western Group.
- (d) The meetings of experts will prepare factual reports describing their work.
- (e) The Sixth Review Conference will consider the work of these meetings and decide on any further action.”

2. In accordance with the decision of the Fifth Review Conference, the 2003 Meeting of States Parties was convened in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 2003, and was preceded by a Meeting of Experts held in Geneva from 18 to 29 August 2003. The 2003 Meeting of States Parties approved the nomination by the Group of Non-aligned and Other States of Mr. Peter Goosen of South Africa as Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2004. The 2003 Meeting of States Parties decided that the 2004 Meeting of Experts would be held in Geneva from 19 to 30 July 2004, and that the 2004 Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from 6 to 10 December 2004.¹

3. By resolution 58/72, adopted without a vote on 8 December 2003, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the United Nations Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, including all necessary assistance to the annual meetings of the States Parties and the meetings of experts.

Organization of the Meeting of Experts

4. In accordance with the decisions of the Fifth Review Conference and the 2003 Meeting of States Parties, the 2004 Meeting of Experts was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 19 to 30 July 2004, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peter Goosen of South Africa.

5. At its first meeting, the Meeting of Experts adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2004/MX/1) and programme of work (BWC/MSP/2004/MX/2/Rev.1) as proposed by the Chairman. The Chairman also drew the attention of delegations to three background papers prepared by the Secretariat (BWC/MSP/2004/MX/INF.1, /INF.2 and /INF.3).

6. At the same meeting, following a suggestion by the Chairman, the Meeting of Experts adopted as its rules of procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Fifth Review Conference, as contained in Annex II of the Final Document of the Review Conference (BWC/CONF.V/17).

¹ See BWC/MSP/2003/4 (Vol I)

7. Mr. Richard Lennane, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Meeting of Experts. Ms. Melissa Hersch and Dr. Piers Millett, Professional Assistants, United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, served in the Secretariat.

Participation at the Meeting of Experts

8. Eighty-seven States Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting of Experts as follows: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

9. In addition, four States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Meeting of Experts without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the rules of procedure: Egypt, Madagascar, Myanmar, United Arab Emirates.

10. Two States, Israel and Kazakhstan, neither Parties nor Signatories to the Convention, participated in the Meeting of Experts as observers, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a).

11. The United Nations, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), attended the Meeting of Experts in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

12. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), upon their request, were granted observer status to participate in the Meeting of Experts in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

13. Eleven non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of Experts under rule 44, paragraph 5.

14. A list of all participants in the Meeting of Experts is contained in document BWC/MSP/2004/MX/INF.5

Work of the Meeting of Experts

15. The Meeting of Experts held two public meetings, on 19 and 30 July respectively, and ... working sessions between 19 and 30 July 2004. In accordance with the programme of work (BWC/MSP/2004/MX/2/Rev.1), on 19 July the Meeting of Experts heard general statements from ... States Parties during the first working session, and presentations from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World

Organization for Animal Health (OIE) during the second working session. The period from 20 to 23 July was devoted to consideration of strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals, and plants (agenda item 5), and the period from 26 to 29 July was devoted to consideration of enhancing international capabilities for responding to, investigating and mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of disease (agenda item 6).

16. During its consideration of strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals, and plants (agenda item 5), the Meeting of Experts heard ... statements, presentations and interventions from States Parties on general surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases; ... statements, presentations and interventions on surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, ... statements, presentations and interventions on surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting animals; and ... statements, presentations and interventions on surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting plants.

17. During its consideration of enhancing international capabilities for responding to, investigating and mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of disease (agenda item 6), the Meeting of Experts heard ... statements, presentations and interventions from States Parties on outbreak response humans; ... statements, presentations and interventions on outbreak response animals; ... statements, presentations and interventions on outbreak response plants; and ... statements, presentations and interventions on investigations.

18. ...

19. ...

20. ...

21. In the course of its work, the Meeting of Experts was able to draw on a number of working papers submitted by States Parties, as well as on statements and presentations made by States Parties. The working papers are listed in Annex I to this Report.

Documentation

22. A complete list of documents of the Meeting of Experts, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in Annex I to this Report. All documents on this list are available on the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), accessible on the internet at www.ods.unog.ch.

Conclusion of the Meeting of Experts

23. At its closing meeting on 30 July 2004, the Meeting of Experts took note of the draft agenda and indicative schedule prepared by the Chairman for the Meeting of States Parties in December 2004, which are attached to this Report as Annex III. The Meeting of Experts noted that the Chairman would prepare the provisional agenda and programme of work for approval and adoption at the Meeting of States Parties in December 2004.

24. At the same meeting, the Meeting of Experts adopted its Report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2004/MX/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2004/MX/...
