



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 December 2024

Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 105

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 2 December 2024

[on the report of the First Committee ([A/79/415](#), para. 9)]

79/79. Strengthening and institutionalizing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [2826 \(XXVI\)](#), on 16 December 1971, was opened for signature on 10 April 1972 and entered into force on 26 March 1975,

Recalling also its annual resolutions on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,¹

Noting that the Implementation Support Unit was established within the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs by the decision 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 to provide administrative support to meetings agreed by the Review Conference as well as comprehensive implementation and universalization of the Convention and the exchange of confidence-building measures,² and stressing at the same time that its mandate should be reviewed by States parties at each subsequent Review Conference,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1015, No. 14860.

² See [BWC/CONF.VI/6](#).



Noting with satisfaction that the Ninth 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, in the decisions and recommendations contained in its Final Document, reaffirmed the utility of having an intersessional programme and decided that States parties would hold annual meetings between 2023 and 2026 in Geneva,³

Recognizing the rapid development of new and emerging technologies and that they hold great promise for the advancement in the life sciences, and recognizing also the impact of such technologies on the regime governed by the Convention,

Recognizing also the necessity to strengthen the joint efforts under the Convention in response to and prevention of current and future biological threats and risks, and noting in this regard relevant initiatives,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the consensus reached at the Ninth 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, and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate and actively engage in the continued implementation of the Convention and the outcomes of its Review Conferences;

2. *Recognizes with appreciation* that, determined to strengthen the effectiveness and to improve the implementation of the Convention in all its aspects, the Ninth Review Conference decided to establish a Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention open to all States parties;

3. *Acknowledges with appreciation* that the aim of the Working Group is to identify, examine and develop specific and effective measures, including possible legally binding measures, and to make recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention in all its aspects, including measures on organizational, institutional and financial arrangements;

4. *Encourages* the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention to further consider the measures aimed at strengthening and institutionalizing the Convention in all its aspects, in particular on how to proceed on organizational matters within the Working Group, including the possibility of an international agency for biological security and other institutional arrangements;

5. *Acknowledges* that 2025 will mark the centennial of the signing of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare⁴ in Geneva on 17 June 1925, and recognizes that it will also mark the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and invites the Secretary-General to mark this special occasion.

*44th plenary meeting
2 December 2024*

³ See [BWC/CONF.IX/9](#).

⁴ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV, No. 2138.