

**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**

11 October 2011
English
Original: Arabic

Geneva, 5–22 December 2011

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

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

Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention

Submitted by Iraq

1. Iraq understands how important the disarmament and non-proliferation regime is for international peace and security and the realization of development in various domains. Hence, it is striving to become a factor and a source of stability for the Middle East region and the entire world by overcoming the legacy of past policies and resuming its constructive role in the international community.

2. In 2004, a new Iraqi State that abides by all international treaties and conventions, including the conventions on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, began to take shape. Article 9, paragraph (e), of the Permanent Constitution of the Republic of Iraq provides: “The Iraqi Government shall honour and meet the international obligations of Iraq with regard to the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production and non-use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and associated equipment, material and technologies for use in the development, manufacture, production and use of such weapons, as well as delivery systems.”

3. Iraq welcomed the adoption by consensus of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which it views as an effective instrument for boosting international measures to meet the challenge posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery promptly and collectively. The Government of Iraq has adopted a series of practical measures to meet the requirements of the resolution. These measures include the submission of national reports on arrangements and measures put in place at the national level. In the light of the foregoing, the Security Council, by resolution 1957 (2010), terminated the measures provided for under resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991) with a view to ensuring a return to normalcy in Iraq.

4. In accordance with the decisions adopted by the Sixth Review Conference in 2006, Iraq established a national focal point — the National Monitoring Directorate — to follow up on the implementation of the Convention. The National Monitoring Directorate has duly completed annual declarations on confidence-building measures and submitted them to the Implementation Support Unit at the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva through the International Organizations and Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. The National Monitoring Directorate has drafted legislation on non-proliferation in the Republic of Iraq with the aim of establishing and maintaining a unified national regime that will enable Iraq to meet its obligations under treaties and conventions on the non-proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. The legislation covers prohibited activities, dual-use issues and the establishment of mechanisms for submitting declarations, issuing permits and monitoring the movement of dual-use material.

6. Iraq acknowledges the major role that the Implementation Support Unit and the Head of Unit, Mr. Richard Lennane, have played over the past five years and their extraordinary efforts to ensure the success of the meetings of experts and States parties that have been held since the Sixth Review Conference. In conjunction with donor States such as Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the Unit has furthermore provided financial support to a number of State party delegations to attend these meetings. Iraq therefore calls for the mandate of the Unit to be renewed and for the Unit to be given additional resources to enable it to enhance its effectiveness in supporting the implementation and universal ratification of the Convention and in assisting States parties with meeting their obligations.

7. Iraq calls on all the States parties to prepare confidence-building measures declarations and to submit them to the Implementation Support Unit by means that ensure the utmost transparency and help to dispel doubts, clear up ambiguities and build confidence in the implementation of the Convention in conjunction with the States parties. We should like to make the following recommendations on ways of supporting and strengthening these declarations.

(a) A new World Health Organization (WHO) classification with regard to the application of maximum containment levels should be introduced to replace the classification established by WHO in 1983. Moreover, a sharper distinction should be made between risk group 3 and risk group 4 in the classification of infective micro-organisms, as the two groups currently overlap;

(b) An annex or arrangement should be introduced for declaring any deliberate or suspected release of biological agents that has led to an outbreak of a given disease and for announcing the results of investigations into the matter in accordance with the legislation of the State party concerned, so as to enable all States parties to exchange information about the case and benefit from the experience;

(c) The implementation of Article X of the Convention is a key priority for Iraq. The State attaches considerable importance to the implementation of this article by all the States parties, notably developing countries; an agreement on effective mechanisms for implementing the article is essential for building national capacities inter alia in the areas of infrastructure and human resources, based on the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technical information on the uses of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes. National capacity-building for States parties, especially developing and impoverished countries, would benefit the entire international community, particularly if it focused on disease control, detection, surveillance or monitoring for the purposes of treatment and prevention in humans, animals and plants and the achievement of prompt and decisive results. The States parties with the necessary capacities should cooperate in efforts to transfer modern technologies to States parties that need these sciences and technologies most in order to improve health and economic conditions in their societies. Securing an agreement on appropriate mechanisms for implementing Article X has become a pressing need, since several States, including Iraq, have already met their obligations on the implementation of Article IV of the Convention in accordance with their constitutional procedures;

(d) Iraq calls on the States parties to take advantage of their bilateral and multilateral relations in order to encourage States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention with a view to promoting its universality and furthering the cause of global security and peace.
