

**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**

12 December 2011

English only

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Geneva, 5–22 December 2011

**Proposals made to the Committee of the Whole  
(as at 15.00, 12 December 2011)**

**Submitted by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole**

**Addendum**

**Article VIII**

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

[...]

**Article XI**

57. The Conference notes that the Islamic Republic of Iran has formally presented a proposal to amend Article I and the title of the Convention to include explicitly the prohibition of the use of biological weapons.

58. The Conference takes note of the statement 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. The Conference encourages all States Parties to convey their views to the Depositaries on the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

59. 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**

**60. 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 recommends that Review Conferences should continue to be held at least every five years.**

61. 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;

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

### **Article XIII**

62. 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**

63. The Conference notes with satisfaction that eleven states have acceded to or ratified the Convention since the Fifth Review Conference.

64. The Conference calls upon signatories to ratify the Convention, and upon those states which have not signed the Convention to accede to it without delay, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention.

65. The Conference encourages States Parties to take action to persuade non-parties to accede to the Convention without delay, and particularly welcomes regional initiatives that would lead to wider accession to the Convention.

### **Article XV**

66. The Conference decides 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.

## **II. Textual proposals**

### **Article V**

#### **South Africa**

23. The Conference emphasises the importance of the exchange of information among States Parties through the confidence-building measures agreed at the Second and Third Review Conferences.

24. The Conference notes that only a limited number of States Parties make an annual CBM submission. The Conference recognises the urgent need to increase the number of States Parties participating in CBMs. In this regard, the Conference also recognizes the

technical difficulties experienced by some State Parties in completing full and timely declarations. The Conference agrees that the CBM mechanism need to be analysed and reviewed to address the following:

- (i) Its purpose
- (ii) How should it be developed to fulfill that purpose.

25. The Conference reaffirms that the data submitted in the framework of the annual exchange of information should be provided to the ISU and promptly forwarded by it to all States Parties according to the updated modalities in the appendix ... The information supplied by a State Party must not be further circulated or made available without the express permission of that State Party.

### **Switzerland**

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 under these measures, which enables States Parties to demonstrate their compliance with the Convention, to enhance transparency and to build confidence.

The Conference reaffirms that the data submitted in the framework of the annual exchange of information should be provided by 30 April to the ISU, which shall make the submissions available electronically. The Conference, while recalling that the information supplied by a State Party must not be further circulated or made available without the express permission of that State Party, notes the increasing number of States who agree to make their submissions publicly available including on the public section of the ISU website.

## **Article VII**

### **India**

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 Party of the Convention which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such Party has been exposed to danger as result of violation of the Convention.

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.

## **Article IX**

The Conference notes the increasing convergence of biology and chemistry and its potential challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Convention

## **Article X**

### **Belgium**

The Conference calls upon states parties to exchange information on cooperation and assistance, related with Article X, by means of the Confidence Building Measures, and modify their format in this regard.

### **India**

The Conference stresses the importance of full and effective implementation of Article X by States Parties consistent with their obligations under the Convention.

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

The Conference emphasizes the increasing importance of Article X provisions in the light of developments in the field of biological science and technology, which have vastly increased the potential for cooperation between States to help promote economic and social development, and scientific and technological progress particularly in the developing countries, in conformity with their interests, needs and priorities.

The Conference recognizes that there remain challenges to be overcome in developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes to their full potential. The Conference agrees on the value of mobilizing resources, including financial resources, to facilitate the widest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information in the framework of Article X of the Convention.

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 and encourages States Parties in a position to do so to provide such information.

## **Article XII**

### **India**

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, and that Review Conferences should continue to be held at least every five years

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

- (i) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, in accordance with the relevant decision of this Conference regarding regular and systematic review of S&T developments;
- (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 Seventh Review Conference, while taking into account the decisions reached in earlier Conferences held under the Convention

The Conference affirms that decision making powers are vested by the Convention in Review Conferences and that decisions regarding the operation and implementation of the Convention are taken by Review Conferences on the basis of consensus.

## **Article XIV**

### **India**

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

The Conference notes that the primary responsibility for promoting the universality of the Convention rests with the States Parties.

### **United States of America**

The Conference urges signatories to ratify the Convention, and urges those states which have not signed the Convention to accede to it without delay, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention.

The Conference affirmed the particular importance of the ratification of the Convention by signatory states and accession to the Convention without delay by those which have not signed the Convention, contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention. States Parties agreed to continue to promote the universalization, and to support the universalization activities of the Chairman and the Implementation Support Unit, in accordance with the decisions of this Seventh Review Conference

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