

Meeting 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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Item 14 of the agenda

Adoption of the report of the meeting

Report of the Meeting of States Parties

I. Introduction

1. The final document of 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 (BWC/CONF.VII/7), in the Decisions and Recommendations section, contained the following decision:

“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);

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(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.”

2. By resolution 67/77, adopted without a vote on 3 December 2012, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention, to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences, and to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the meetings of experts and meetings of States Parties during the 2012–2015 intersessional programme.

3. The 2013 Meeting of Experts convened in Geneva from 12 to 16 August 2013. At its closing meeting on 16 August 2013, the Meeting of Experts adopted its report by consensus (BWC/MSP/2013/MX/3).

II. Organization of the Meeting of States Parties

4. In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference, the 2013 Meeting of States Parties was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 9 to 13 December 2013, under the chairmanship of Ms. Judit Körömi, Special Representative of the Foreign Minister for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Hungary, with Mr. Urs Schmid, Ambassador of Switzerland and Mr. Mazlan Muhammad, Ambassador of Malaysia serving as Vice-chairs.

5. At its first meeting, on 9 December 2013, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2013/1) and programme of work (BWC/MSP/2013/2) as proposed by the Chairman. The Meeting also took note of the report of the Meeting of Experts (BWC/MSP/2013/MX/3). The Chairman drew the attention of delegations to two reports:

the report of the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2013/4) and a report on universalization activities prepared by the Chairman (BWC/MSP/2013/3).

6. At the same meeting, following a suggestion by the Chairman, the Meeting of States Parties adopted as its rules of procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Seventh Review Conference, as contained in annex III of the final document of the Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VII/7).

7. Mr. Richard Lennane, Head of the Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Meeting of States Parties. Mr. Piers Millett, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Deputy Secretary. Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh, Associate Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served in the Secretariat.

III. Participation at the Meeting of States Parties

8. 102 States Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting of States Parties as follows: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, 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 Zambia.

9. In addition, two States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Meeting of States Parties without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure: Côte d'Ivoire, and Myanmar.

10. One State, Israel, neither party nor signatory to the Convention, participated in the Meeting of States Parties as an observer, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a).

11. The United Nations, including the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee, attended the Meeting of States Parties in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

12. The European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Criminal Police Organization, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health were granted observer status to participate in the Meeting of States Parties in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

13. 15 non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of States Parties under rule 44, paragraph 5.

14. A list of all participants in the Meeting of States Parties is contained in document BWC/MSP/2013/INF.6.

IV. Work of the Meeting of States Parties

15. In accordance with the programme of work (BWC/MSP/2013/2), the Meeting of States Parties held a general debate in which the following 35 States Parties made statements: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada (on behalf of Japan, Australia, Canada, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Norway and New Zealand), China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) (on behalf of the Group of the Non Aligned Movement and Other States), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, United States of America, and Uruguay. Three observer organizations, the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee, also made statements in the general debate. Following the general debate, during an informal session the Meeting heard statements from ten non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

16. Between 10 and 13 December, the Meeting of States Parties held sessions devoted to each of the standing agenda items on: cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X; review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention; and strengthening national implementation (agenda items 7 to 9); and a session devoted to the biennial item on how to enable fuller participation in the Confidence-building Measures (agenda item 10). On 12 December, a session was devoted to progress with universalization of the Convention (agenda item 11) and the annual report of the Implementation Support Unit (agenda item 12). On 13 December, the Meeting considered arrangements for the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2014 (agenda item 13).

17. In the course of its work, the Meeting of States Parties 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, international organizations and the Implementation Support Unit, which were circulated in the Meeting.

18. In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference, and recalling the common understandings reached during the 2003-2005 and 2007-2010 intersessional work programmes and by the Meeting of States Parties in 2012, States Parties continued to develop common understandings on each of the three standing agenda items and the biennial item.

A. Standing agenda item: cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X

19. States Parties recalled their legal obligation to facilitate and their 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.

20. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of taking full advantage of the 2012–2015 intersessional process, as well as the other outcomes of the Seventh Review Conference, to strengthen international cooperation and assistance. States Parties recognized the value of elaborating further the existing common understandings related to Article X.

21. To further reinforce efforts to work together to target and mobilize resources, States Parties agreed on the value of:

(a) Promoting international cooperation providing for the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article X of the Convention and not limiting this cooperation to financial resources;

(b) Continuing to work together to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation including in particular from developed to developing States Parties and also exploring different ways of cooperation, including South-South, cooperation;

(c) Submitting clear, specific, and timely national reports on implementation of Article X as agreed at the Seventh Review Conference.

22. In order to further enhance the function of the database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation, States Parties noted the value of, assessing its functionality, strengthening its utilization and improving its operation. States Parties agreed on the value of:

(a) Making offers of assistance accessible on the open section of the website and feature a prominent link to these offers on the home page;

(b) Encouraging States Parties that have submitted offers to regularly update contact and other information;

(c) Exploring more effective means of bringing assistance requests to the attention of States Parties that have made potentially relevant offers of assistance;

(d) Highlighting the database and related assistance in the course of outreach efforts;

(e) Reviewing the status of these efforts, and the use of the database, on the basis of the Report of the ISU for 2014.

23. To further efforts to address 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, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Pursuing a long-term, sustainable and systematic approach to the provision of cooperation and assistance;

(b) Avoiding imposing 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;

(c) Helping requesting countries to provide a thorough explanation of their needs and to define in specific terms the type of support that could best address those needs;

(d) Leveraging existing bilateral and multilateral partnerships, and create new ones, to better coordinate plans and develop joint solutions to the challenges in exchange of assistance during public health and medical emergencies;

(e) Convene regional seminars and workshops to explore ways and means of promoting the full and effective implementation of Article X.

24. Recognizing the value of twinning programmes and other means of international exchange in education and training for strengthening cooperation among States Parties, for capacity-building and sharing of advanced expertise including in particular with developing countries, and for improving global capacity for disease detection and control, States Parties recognized the value of developing and facilitating such programmes, including by:

(a) Sharing results of advanced research in life sciences so that scientists, engineers, students and teachers including in particular in developing countries are aware of opportunities and can take full advantage of new developments in biological sciences and technology;

(b) Providing opportunities for training in advanced laboratories and working with cutting-edge technology to help build defenses against disease whether naturally occurring or deliberate, including in particular to developing countries.

25. In order to further efforts to strengthen national capacity through international cooperation to prevent accidental or deliberate releases of biological agents, as well as for detecting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Providing assistance upon request with challenges related to storing and dealing with pathogens, development of scientific research capacity and training of national specialists;

(b) Facilitating the transport, entry, exit, processing and disposal of biological substances and diagnostic specimens and materials, in accordance with national laws and regulations, for public, animal and plant health response and for other peaceful purposes;

(c) Developing international capacity to provide urgent assistance, including testing systems and diagnostic equipment, medical countermeasures and related logistical support, biological environmental monitoring devices, and advice and expert assistance;

(d) Identifying and addressing specific impediments to the provision or receipt of international assistance in response to an attack or unusual disease outbreak;

(e) Promoting interagency coordination and multi-sectoral cooperation to prepare for, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks whether natural, accidental or deliberate in nature;

(f) Developing and implementing appropriate, sustainable, and effective laboratory safety and security measures, through international cooperation and assistance, including on exchanges of technology, training materials and resources.

26. In order to further efforts to strengthen international cooperation to ensure all States Parties have access to the benefits of developments in the life sciences, States Parties noted the value of harnessing recent advances, including in enabling technologies, in order to strengthen the sustainable development of States Parties, taking into account the needs of developing countries in meeting health-related challenges.

27. Recognizing the importance of coordination with relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, taking into account the mandates of existing mechanisms established by those organizations, States Parties noted the value of closer cooperation and coordination between States Parties and relevant international organization, in accordance with their respective mandates, including in order to build an integrated approach on biosecurity and biosafety.

28. States Parties recalled their agreement on the importance of continuing discussions on full and effective implementation of Article X obligations, including in light of various proposals made by States Parties.

B. Standing agenda item: review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention

29. States Parties identified certain developments in science and technology that have potential benefits for the Convention and agreed on the need to share information on these developments, including:

(a) improving identification of biological agents and toxins for both health and security purposes, resulting from advances in life science research, including metagenomics, immunological methods, molecular probes, amplification of nucleic acids, and in microbial forensics;

(b) advances in comparative genomics, which would increase the capacity to investigate alleged use of biological weapons;

(c) improved, more efficient and economical vaccine and diagnostic technologies, resulting from advances in:

(i) identifying new targets and reducing the timescale for the development of vaccines, drugs and diagnostics;

(ii) production of vaccines including through developments in single-use or disposable bioreactor systems, which can increase yield, cost-effectiveness, portability and safety, and novel vaccine production methods, including cell cultures and cell suspension bioreactors, recombinant DNA, metabolic engineering and synthetic biology, chemical peptide synthesis; and transgenic animals and plants;

(iii) vaccine distribution and delivery, such as encapsulation in silk matrices, nano-vesicles, and nanotechnology-based patches;

(iv) point-of-care diagnostic systems suitable for use in low resource settings resulting from advances in microfluidics, nanotechnology, lateral flow immunoassays and new techniques emerging from multidisciplinary collaborations that combine different approaches into simple devices;

(d) enhanced epidemiological capacity including for identifying unknown pathogens, outbreak sources and animal reservoirs, resulting from advances in faster and less expensive high-throughput DNA sequencing, along with parallel advances in computational biology.

30. States Parties agreed that some of the developments reviewed have the potential for uses contrary to the provisions of the Convention, including manipulating the pathogenicity, host-specificity, transmissibility, resistance to drugs, or ability to overcome host immunity to pathogens, and increasing the production efficiency and the effectiveness of biological weapons agents. States Parties also agreed on the importance of facilitating the fullest possible exchange of dual-use technologies where their use is fully consistent with the peaceful object and purpose of the Convention.

31. In order to further seize opportunities for maximizing benefits from advances in science and technology while minimizing the risk of their application for prohibited purposes, States Parties noted the value of:

(a) Promoting access to, and use of, the technologies they reviewed, including through the development of inexpensive and field-portable applications;

(b) Promoting appropriate oversight measures to identify and manage such risks, ensuring that they are proportional to the assessed risk, take into account both risks and benefits, and avoid hampering legitimate peaceful activities;

(c) Recognizing that a one-size-fits-all approach is unsuitable, exploring approaches for developing guiding principles that could be tailored to national circumstances;

(d) Undertaking efforts to engage the scientific community, research funding organizations and, when appropriate, industry in dialogue about how best to identify and manage these risks;

(e) Sharing information about oversight frameworks, guiding principles, and practical experience with other States Parties.

(f) Continuing discussion under the Convention on dual use research, bringing in a wide range of national and international stakeholders and focusing on specific instances in order to better understand options for mitigating risks;

(g) The elaboration of models to inform risk assessment and oversight of scientific research activities that have significant dual-use potential, which should be carried out during all phases of the research cycle.

32. In order to further efforts on education and awareness-raising about risks and benefits of life sciences and biotechnology, States Parties agreed on the value of using science responsibly as an overarching theme to enable parallel outreach efforts across inter-related scientific disciplines, as well as taking full advantage of active learning techniques, consistent with national laws and regulations.

33. States Parties agreed on the value of promoting education on the Convention and the dual-use nature of biotechnology, including through preparing easily accessible and understandable courses, integrating consideration of biosecurity with broader efforts on bioethics, and assessing the impact of such education.

34. In light of the growing convergence between the fields of biology and chemistry, States Parties agreed on the value of furthering efforts to build and sustain coordination between the Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, while respecting the legal and institutional bases of each convention. States Parties recognized the value of exploring appropriate ways and means to promote greater collaboration between the CWC and the Convention to analyze potential benefits, risks and threats resulting from relevant advances in science and technology.

35. States Parties agreed on the value of increasing the participation of scientific and technical experts in national delegations to Meetings of Experts. States Parties also recognized the value of contributions to the Sponsorship Programme to facilitate such participation.

36. Recognizing the importance of thoroughly and effectively reviewing science and technology developments relevant to the Convention, and of keeping pace with rapid changes in a wide range of fields, States Parties agreed on the value of considering, in future meetings, possible ways of establishing a more systematic and comprehensive means of review.

37. States Parties recognized the valuable contribution to their work of associated stakeholders in science, academia and industry and agreed on the importance of continuing to encourage them to participate, as appropriate, in the intersessional programme.

C. Standing agenda item: strengthening national implementation

38. States Parties recalled their legal obligation, in accordance with their constitutional processes, to take any necessary measures to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, or retention of biological weapons and to prevent their

transfer to any recipient whatsoever, directly or indirectly, and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any State, group of States or international organizations to manufacture or otherwise acquire them.

39. States Parties recalled their agreement to continue to work to strengthen national implementation, taking into account differences in national circumstances and legal and constitutional processes. States Parties agreed on the need to pursue national implementation through the current intersessional programme to foster regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote awareness of the Convention and strengthen regional discussions on the topics of the current intersessional programme. States Parties recognized the value of elaborating further the existing common understandings related to national implementation.

40. In order to further efforts to strengthen national implementation, continue to share best practices and experiences, taking into account differences in national circumstances and legal and constitutional processes, States Parties noted the value of:

- (a) Information on the current status of implementation efforts through the sharing of up-to-date information on their legislative, administrative and other national measures;
- (b) Continuing to improve and update data handling of information provided by States Parties on their national implementation;
- (c) Continuing to strengthen the national institutions which play a role in national implementation;
- (d) Enhancing national coordination between law enforcement institutions.

41. States Parties agreed on the value of continuing to develop measures for, and taking advantage of, international cooperation in accordance with Article X to strengthen implementation of the Convention. States Parties noted the value of such international cooperation including public health, socio-economic development, biological safety and security, as well as national capacities to prevent, detect and respond to biological threats.

42. In order to further efforts to mitigate biological risks, States Parties noted the value of, in accordance with national laws and regulations:

- (a) Promoting regulation, at the national level, of possession, use and transfer of potentially dangerous biological agents and toxins;
- (b) Promoting oversight of pathogens, at the national level, by harmonizing and updating applicable biosafety and biosecurity standards and guidelines, and clarifying and updating biocontainment requirements.

43. States Parties agreed on the value of continuing discussion on measures to strengthen national implementation of the Convention, including in light of various proposals made by States Parties.

D. Biennial item: how to enable fuller participation in the Confidence-building Measures (CBMs)

44. Recalling their recognition of the importance of annual exchanges of information to provide transparency and build mutual trust, States Parties noted the value of:

- (a) Encouraging States Parties that have not participated regularly in the CBMs or have never participated, to share information on the specific reasons on why they do not participate;

- (b) Consider voluntarily making all, or part, of their CBM returns public.

45. Recalling their previous understanding of the value of the Chairman writing each year to all States parties to remind them of the call by the Seventh Review Conference to participate annually in the CBMs, States Parties recognized the value of including in this reminder a request for information on issues affecting their participation in the CBMs

46. Recalling their agreement on the value of activities identified in 2012 for addressing the technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties in completing full and timely CBM submissions, States Parties agreed to work to:

- (a) Provide further technical assistance and support to States Parties, on request, for preparing and submitting CBM submissions, including through bilateral cooperation on CBMs and the provision of assistance, using the national point of contact list available on the ISU website;

- (b) Continue to develop the electronic CBM platform that was demonstrated at the Meeting of States Parties, including through collaborating with the ISU to test and refine the system;

- (c) Further improve access by States Parties to the information submitted in CBMs by examining the financial and technical feasibility, benefits and implications of various means of making CBM submissions available in more UN languages;

- (d) Convene regional seminars and workshops to promote awareness of CBMs and to provide an opportunity for States Parties to report on their difficulties and needs for assistance;

- (e) Consider a “step-by-step” approach in CBM participation whereby States Parties submit CBM forms separately or one by one, as the information is collected and updated, working towards the end goal of updating and completing CBM submissions while upholding the Decisions of the Seventh Review Conference. In this approach, submitting a “less than perfect” CBM initially, and subsequently updating and completing it, would not have negative consequences.

E. Further steps

47. States Parties further considered that in pursuing the above understandings and actions, States Parties could, according to their respective circumstances and constitutional and legal processes, take into account the considerations, lessons, perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals drawn from the presentations, statements, working papers and interventions made by delegations on the topics under discussion at the Meeting of Experts, as contained in annex I of the report of the Meeting of Experts (BWC/MSP/2013/MX/3), as well as the synthesis of these considerations, lessons, perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals contained in BWC/MSP/2013/L.1, which is attached to this report as annex I. This annex was not proposed for adoption as an outcome of the Meeting, and therefore was not discussed with that aim. Thus, the annex was not agreed upon and consequently has no status.

48. States Parties are encouraged to continue sharing information at subsequent meetings of the intersessional programme on any actions, measures or other steps that they may have taken on issues under consideration in the intersessional programme, in order to further promote common understanding and effective action and to facilitate the Eighth Review Conference’s consideration of the work and outcome of these meetings and its decision on any further action, in accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part III, paragraph 15).

49. The Meeting of States Parties reviewed progress towards obtaining universality for the Convention and considered the report from the Chairman on universalization activities (BWC/MSP/2013/3), as well as reports from States Parties on their activities to promote universalization. The Meeting welcomed the ratification of Guyana and Malawi and the accession of Cameroon and Nauru, which brought the number of States Parties to the Convention to 170. States Parties reaffirmed the particular importance of the universality of the Convention and in this regard urged signatory States to ratify the Convention without delay and also urged those states that have not signed the Convention to accede without delay. In this context, the Meeting took note of the reports, and called on all States Parties to continue to promote universalization, and to support the universalization activities of the Chairman with support from the Implementation Support Unit, in accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference.

50. The Meeting of States Parties considered the report of the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2013/4). The Meeting took note of the report, and expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Unit. The Meeting expressed concern that more than half of the States Parties had not participated in the CBMs in 2013. The Meeting encouraged all States Parties to make an annual CBM submission in accordance with the decisions of the respective review conferences, seeking assistance through the Implementation Support Unit where required. The Meeting called on States Parties to continue working closely with the Implementation Support Unit in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference.

51. The Meeting of States Parties considered the arrangements for the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2014. The Meeting decided that the Meeting of Experts would be held in Geneva from 4 to 8 August 2014 and that the Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from 1 to 5 December 2014. The Meeting approved the nomination by the Western Group of Mr. Urs Schmid, Ambassador of Switzerland as Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in 2014, and the nominations by the Group of the Non-aligned Movement and Other States of Mr. Mazlan Muhammad, Ambassador of Malaysia and by the Eastern European Group of Ms. Judit Körömi, Special Representative of the Foreign Minister for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Hungary as the two Vice-chairs.

V. Documentation

52. A list of official documents of the Meeting of States Parties, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in annex II to this report. 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>.

VI. Conclusion of the Meeting of States Parties

53. At its closing meeting on 13 December 2013, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2013/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2013/5.

Annex I

Synthesis of considerations, lessons, perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals drawn from the presentations, statements, working papers and interventions on the topics under discussion at the Meeting of Experts

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

A. Ways and means to target and mobilize resources

1. Recognizing the importance of overcoming challenges and obstacles to international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, States Parties should work together to:

(a) Remove any unjustified restrictions on the development and exchange of technology, materials and equipment needed to promote capacity building in the fields of sanitary control, detection, diagnosis and control of infectious diseases;

(b) Pursue a global, systematic and long-term approach to the provision of cooperation and assistance;

(c) Help requesting countries to provide a thorough explanation of their needs and to define in specific terms the type of support that could best address those needs;

(d) Encourage States Parties providing or receiving assistance to work across sectors within their governments to identify and address logistical, legal and regulatory barriers to the sharing of international assistance and to create a legislative and regulatory environment that facilitates exchange;

(e) Strengthen the utilisation and improve the operation of the cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference, including by considering opening it to wider public access;

(f) Harness the recent advances in enabling technologies in order to strengthen the sustainable development of States Parties, taking into account humanitarian considerations and the needs of developing countries in meeting health-related challenges;

(g) Leverage existing bilateral and multilateral partnerships, and create new ones, to better coordinate plans and develop joint solutions to the challenges in exchange of assistance during public health and medical emergencies;

(h) Encourage the private sector to play a greater role in ensuring both innovation and access.

B. Measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions

2. Recognizing the importance of the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X, States Parties should work together on practical measures to improve implementation, including:

- (a) Developing more precise criteria on which cooperation and assistance activities what fall under the BWC and which do not;
- (b) Facilitating implementation of Article X by strengthening implementation of Article III, while ensuring that factors such as lack of technical capability in developing countries are not used to hamper international cooperation;
- (c) Providing open and transparent reporting of activities of States Parties in transferring knowledge, information, technologies, materials and equipment designed to combat infectious diseases, irrespective of their funding sources;
- (d) Discuss compulsory licensing, in consultation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as a means of overcoming obstacles to provision of medicines to developing countries.

C. Ways and means to target and mobilize resources

3. Recognizing the fundamental importance of mobilizing sufficient resources to facilitate assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, States Parties should:
 - (a) Promote international cooperation that is not limited to financial resources but also includes the exchange of information, experiences, lessons learned, good practices and technical knowledge;
 - (b) Explore different ways of cooperation, including triangular, South-South, North-South, South-North and North-North;
 - (c) Submit clear, specific, and timely national reports on implementation of Article X as agreed at the Seventh Review Conference, and consider whether a comprehensive electronic database for international cooperation in the context of Article X could play a useful role in mobilizing and targeting resources.

D. Education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources

4. Recognizing the value of twinning programmes and other means of international exchange in education and training for strengthening cooperation among States Parties, for capacity-building and sharing of advanced expertise in developing countries, and for improving global capacity for disease detection and control, States Parties should develop and facilitate such programmes, including by:
 - (a) Ensuring that visa and other administrative requirements are proportionate, fair and efficiently administered;
 - (b) Sharing results of advanced research in life sciences so that scientists, engineers, students and teachers in developing countries are aware of opportunities and can take full advantage of new developments in biological sciences and technology.

E. Capacity-building through international cooperation

5. Recognizing the importance of 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 emergency

preparedness, response, management, and mitigation, States Parties should work to build capacity and reduce inequalities between developed and developing countries in the life sciences and related technologies, including by:

- (a) Facilitating the transport, entry, exit, processing and disposal of biological substances and diagnostic specimens, reagents and other diagnostic materials for public health response purposes;
- (b) Maintaining constant international surveillance and preparing further contingency plans to deal with emerging infectious diseases such as H7N9 influenza;
- (c) Developing international capacity to provide urgent assistance, including testing systems and diagnostic equipment, means of specific and general immunization, biological environmental monitoring devices, and advice and expert assistance;
- (d) Providing assistance with logistic challenges related to storing and dealing with pathogens, development of scientific research capacity and training of national specialists.

F. Coordination of cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders

6. States Parties recognized the importance of coordination with relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, specifically:

- (a) Fostering closer collaboration and synergy between States Parties and international organizations such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization;
- (b) Closer cooperation and coordination between the WHO and BWC in order to build an integrated approach on biosecurity and biosafety;
- (c) Strengthening the role of the Convention as a mechanism that coordinates BWC-related assistance that is provided through other formats.

II. Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention (focusing in 2013 on advances in technologies for surveillance, detection, diagnosis and mitigation of infectious diseases, and similar occurrences caused by toxins in humans, animals and plants)

A. New science and technology developments that have potential for uses contrary to the provisions of the Convention

7. States Parties identified a number of developments that have potential for uses contrary to the provisions of the Convention, including:

- (a) In vaccine development, knowledge gained through research on the pathogenicity of the disease agent and the host immune response could be exploited for harmful purposes;
- (b) Advances in technologies that make vaccine production simpler, faster, cheaper and more efficient also have the potential to be used for biological weapons agent production;

(c) Concepts developed to deliver vaccines to specific cell types could also be used to design delivery platforms for harmful materials.

8. Recognizing the importance of preventing any misuse of new science and technology developments, States Parties should work together to:

(a) Develop and promote appropriate oversight and biosafety/biosecurity measures, including through international cooperation, capacity-building and strengthened implementation of Article X;

(b) Involve a wide range of national and international stakeholders in discussing responses to dual-use research of concern;

(c) Ensure that measures taken to mitigate biological risks are proportional to the assessed risk and do not hamper legitimate peaceful activities including international cooperation;

(d) Consider the implications of the convergence of biology and chemistry.

B. New science and technology developments that have potential benefits for the Convention, including those of special relevance to surveillance, detection, diagnosis and mitigation of infectious diseases

9. States Parties identified a number of developments in surveillance, detection and identification and diagnosis that have potential benefits for the Convention, including:

(a) New methods for direct detection of the presence of bacteria (such as immunological methods, molecular probes, and amplification of nucleic acids) and of viruses;

(b) Faster and less expensive high-throughput DNA sequencing, along with parallel advances in computational biology, which together can be used for identifying unknown pathogens, outbreak sources and animal reservoirs;

(c) Rapid point-of-care diagnostics suitable for use in low-resource environments to provide quick assessment of disease outbreaks, such as lateral flow immunoassays and new techniques emerging from multidisciplinary collaborations that combine different approaches into simple devices;

(d) Advances in microfluidics and nanotechnology which may aid point-of-care diagnosis of several diseases;

(e) Advances in metagenomics, which can be used for identifying unknown viruses or bacteria by subtracting human sequences and focusing on known or novel microbial sequences.

10. States Parties identified a number of developments in disease response, investigation and mitigation that have potential benefits for the Convention, including:

(a) Advances in vaccine development, allowing the identification of new targets and reducing the timescale for development;

(b) Innovations in traditional vaccine production methods, including single-use or disposable bioreactor systems, which can increase yield, cost-effectiveness, portability and safety;

(c) New vaccine production methods, including cell cultures and cell suspension bioreactors, recombinant DNA metabolic engineering and synthetic biology, chemical peptide synthesis; and transgenic animals and plants;

(d) Advances in vaccine distribution and delivery, such as encapsulation in silk matrices, nano-vesicles, and nanotechnology-based patches;

(e) Advances in forensic epidemiology, such as comparative genomics, which would be of great utility in investigation of alleged use of biological weapons.

11. Recognizing the importance of ensuring that the potential benefits to the Convention are realized, States Parties should work together to:

(a) Promote wide access to and use of these technologies, including through the development of inexpensive and field-portable implementations;

(b) Support the full and open exchange of scientific knowledge and technology, especially between developed and developing countries.

C. Possible measures for strengthening national biological risk management

12. Recognising that the dual-use nature of some life sciences research requires thoughtful approaches to maximize benefits and minimize risks of accident or misuse, States Parties should work together and with all relevant stakeholders to develop measures to mitigate biological risks. Such measures should be proportional to the assessed risk, take into account national circumstances, and not hamper activities necessary for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes. They could include:

(a) The elaboration of common principles on the basis of which risk assessment and oversight of scientific research activities that have dual-use potential should be carried out during all phases of the research cycle;

(b) The development of oversight frameworks for dual-use research of concern, involving a broad range of stakeholders at the national and international levels;

(c) Continuing discussion within the Convention on specific instances of dual-use research, in order to consider relevant research trends early rather than post facto.

D. Science- and technology-related developments relevant to the activities of multilateral organizations

13. Recognizing the close links and the areas of common interest between the BWC and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), States Parties noted that:

(a) There may be lessons for the review of science and technology under the BWC from the experience with the Scientific Advisory Board of the CWC;

(b) There is a need for greater interaction between the experts that are involved in the CWC and those involved in the BWC, particularly in the context of the convergence of biology and chemistry, and education and awareness-raising on the respective treaties and dual-use issues.

E. Other science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention

14. Recognizing the importance of thoroughly and effectively reviewing science and technology developments relevant to the Convention, and of keeping pace with rapid

changes in a wide range of fields, States Parties should consider ways of establishing a more systematic and comprehensive means of review. Possibilities could include:

- (a) A board to provide science advice, similar to the Scientific Advisory Board of the CWC, or based on a different model;
- (b) An open-ended working group to consider the implications of advances in science and technology, including the convergence of chemistry and biology;
- (c) A requirement that whenever there are national or international meetings addressing science and technology developments, a summary should be prepared on the implications for the BWC, and submitted by the hosting State Party.

III. Strengthening national implementation

A. Specific measures

15. States Parties identified specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention, especially Articles III and IV, including:

- (a) Ensuring that national legislative frameworks cover definitions, prohibition of certain activities, extraterritorial application, national biosafety and biosecurity measures, transfer controls, and legislative enforcement;
- (b) Ensuring that national implementation covers both *prohibition* and *prevention*.

B. Ways and means to enhance national implementation, sharing best practices and experiences

16. Recognizing the importance of enhancing national implementation, sharing best practices and experiences, enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions, States Parties should work towards:

- (a) Identifying in more concrete terms the specific areas that need to be covered by implementation activities;
- (b) Gathering information on the status of implementation and the needs of States Parties, including through reports of cooperative endeavours such as regional workshops or peer reviews, and national surveys such as those conducted by the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC);
- (c) Complementing and integrating WHO-based provisions with BWC-based provisions, and enhancing partnerships between experts in biosecurity/non-proliferation and public health;
- (d) Developing new methods of sharing experiences and best practices for national implementation, such as voluntary peer review mechanisms;
- (e) Improving coordination and cooperation among national government agencies involved in various aspects of BWC implementation, through forums, committees or other structures;
- (f) Actively sharing with all States Parties information regarding potentially controversial scientific research and/or biodefence activities.

C. National, regional and international measures to improve laboratory biosafety and security of pathogens and toxins

17. Recognizing the importance of measures to improve laboratory biosafety and security of pathogens and toxins, States Parties should work together to:

- (a) Promote regulations that restrict at the national level possession, use and transfer of potentially dangerous biological agents and toxins;
- (b) Promote oversight of pathogens on the national level, by harmonizing and updating biosafety standards and guidelines, and clarifying and updating biocontainment requirements.

D. Any potential further measures, as appropriate, relevant for implementation of the Convention

18. Recognizing the importance of building international confidence in the full implementation of the Convention, States Parties considered a number of possible approaches to demonstrating their compliance with the national implementation obligations of the Convention, including:

- (a) A non-discriminatory, legally binding agreement, including on verification, dealing with all articles of the Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner;
- (b) Detailed annual or periodic reporting on national implementation;
- (c) Providing information and regular updates to the Implementation Support Unit's National Implementation Database and to the Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee;
- (d) Voluntary peer review processes on national implementation or compliance assessment;
- (e) Hosting visits to biodefence or other facilities in order to build an environment of openness and collaboration in national biodefence;
- (f) Conducting national biodefence conferences with open access to representatives of all States Parties;
- (g) Making better and more systematic use of the Confidence-building Measures;
- (h) A mechanism to systematically review relevant developments in science and technology and assess their beneficial and/or detrimental impact on compliance, national implementation, investigations of alleged use, etc.

IV. How to enable fuller participation in the Confidence-building Measures (CBMs)

19. Recognizing the importance of the exchange of information among States Parties through the CBMs, noting that this provides transparency and builds trust among States Parties, States Parties should:

- (a) Demonstrate the relevance and clarity of purpose of the CBMs, and raise awareness of their utility and function;
- (b) Seek information from States Parties that do not participate regularly in the CBMs on the specific reasons they do not participate;

(c) Consider what revisions to the concept and operation of the CBM process could be adopted at the Eighth Review Conference to ensure that the measures are useful, relevant and effective.

20. Recognizing the need to enable fuller participation in the CBMs and the technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties in completing full and timely CBM submissions, States Parties should work to find practical ways to improve participation, including by:

(a) Developing an easy-to-use electronic CBM platform that would facilitate submission, retrieval and analysis of CBM information by States Parties;

(b) Encouraging States Parties which have not yet submitted a CBM return, or which have done so only periodically, to report on the specific assistance they need;

(c) Examining the financial and technical feasibility, benefits and implications of various means of making CBM submissions available in more UN languages;

(d) Convening regional seminars and workshops to promote awareness of CBMs and to provide an opportunity for States Parties to report on their difficulties and needs for assistance;

(e) Encouraging bilateral cooperation on CBMs and the provision of assistance, using the national point of contact list available on the ISU website;

(f) Considering a "step by step" approach in CBM participation whereby States Parties submit CBM forms separately or one by one, as the information is collected.

Annex II

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2013/1	Provisional agenda. Submitted by the Chairman
BWC/MSP/2013/2	Provisional programme of work. Submitted by the Chairman
BWC/MSP/2013/3	Report on universalization activities. Submitted by the Chairman
BWC/MSP/2013/4	Report of the Implementation Support Unit. Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/MSP/2013/5	Report of the Meeting of States Parties
BWC/MSP/2013/L.1	Synthesis of considerations, lessons, perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals drawn from the presentations, statements, working papers and interventions on the topic under discussion at the Meeting of Experts. Submitted by the Chairman
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.1 [English only]	Confidence-building measures: time to redouble efforts for effective action. Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.2 [English only]	Strengthening Article VII: international cooperation and assistance in preparing for and responding to biological incidents. Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.3 [English only]	Strengthening national implementation. Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.4 [English only]	Getting Past Yes: Moving From Consensus Text to Effective Action. Submitted by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.5 [English Only]	Establishing a dedicated structure for the review of developments in biological science and technology. Submitted by Switzerland

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.6 [English only]	Confidence-Building Measures: taking discussions on enabling fuller participation forward to the Eighth Review Conference. Submitted by Switzerland
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.7 and Corr.1 [English only]	Step-by-step approach in CBM participation. Submitted by Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Switzerland
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.8 [French only]	Exercice pilote de revue par les pairs Paris, 4-6 décembre 2013. Soumis par la France
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.9 [English only]	International Cooperation and Assistance of Japan related to Article X. Submitted by Japan
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.10 [English only]	Addressing Modern Threats in the Biological Weapons Convention: A food for thought paper. Submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Finland, Ghana, Lithuania, Netherlands, Nigeria, Republic of Korea and Sweden.
BWC/MSP/2013/WP.11 [English only]	Compliance. Submitted by Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Lithuania, New Zealand, Spain and Switzerland.
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.1 [English only]	The Global Partnership Biosecurity Sub-Working Group in 2013: report of meetings held under the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presidency. Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.2 [English only]	International activities of the Government of Canada related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: Update 2013. Submitted by Canada
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.3 [English only]	Report on Germany's Implementation of Article X. Submitted by Germany
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.4 [English only]	Assistance and cooperation. Submitted by the European Union
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.5 [English only]	Report on cooperation and Assistance under Article X of the Convention. Submitted by Iraq
BWC/MSP/2013/INF.6 [English/French/Spanish only]	List of participants

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2013/CRP.1 [English only]	Draft report of the Meeting of States Parties.
BWC/MSP/2013/MISC.1 [English/French/Spanish only]	Provisional list of participants
