

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

16 December 2024

Original: English

2024 Meeting

Geneva, 16 December 2024

Draft report of the 2024 Meeting of States Parties*

I. Introduction

1. The Final Document of 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 (BWC/CONF.IX/9), in Section B of Part II, contained the following decisions:

“4. Reaffirming the utility of having an intersessional programme, the Conference decides that States Parties will hold annual meetings between 2023 and 2026 in Geneva, in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the Convention, for a duration of three days each year. The first such meeting will be held from 11 to 13 December 2023.

5. The Conference decides that the Meetings of States Parties will be responsible for managing the intersessional programme in support of the Convention, including taking necessary actions with respect to budgetary, financial and organisational matters, with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the intersessional programme. The Meetings of the States Parties will also consider, on an annual basis, progress on universalisation of the Convention, the annual report of the Implementation Support Unit and, as appropriate, the implementation of decisions taken by the Conference.

6. The Conference decides that the 2023 Meeting of the States Parties will be chaired by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States. The Chairperson will be supported by two Vice-Chairpersons.

7. The Tenth Review Conference will consider the work and outcomes of these meetings and decide on any further action.”

2. At the 2023 Meeting of States Parties, it was agreed that the 2024 Meeting of States Parties would take place from 16 to 18 December 2024.

3. By resolution 79/78, adopted without a vote on 2 December 2024, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to continue to provide such services as may be required for the conduct and the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences.

* Any entry listed in this document does not imply the expression of any opinion regarding, and is without prejudice to, the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities.

II. Organization of the Meeting of States Parties

4. On 22 October 2024, the coordinator of the Eastern European Group (Turkmenistan) informed the Implementation Support Unit that the Group had decided not to present a nominee for the Chairperson of the 2024 Meeting of States Parties. On 26 November 2024, the coordinator of the Western Group (Australia) informed the Implementation Support Unit that the Group was not in a position to nominate a Chairperson for the 2024 Meeting of States Parties. On 13 December 2024, the coordinator of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC (Uganda) informed the Implementation Support Unit that the Group was not in a position to present a nominee for Chairperson of the 2024 Meeting of States Parties.

5. In accordance with the decisions of the Ninth Review Conference, the 2024 Meeting of States Parties was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 December 2024. The 2024 Meeting of States Parties was opened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 December 2024, by Ms. C. Mélanie Régimbal, Chief of Service, Geneva Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

6. At its first meeting on 16 December 2024, the Meeting of States Parties appointed Ambassador Yuri Sterk of Bulgaria as its Chairperson only to facilitate the preparation of the report of the Meeting of States Parties and to adopt it. This does not set a precedent for the future.

7. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief, Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Meeting of States Parties. Mr. Hermann Lampalzer, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Deputy Secretary and Mr. Oscar Meless, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, and Ms. Clarissa Rios Rojas, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, also served in the secretariat.

III. Participation at the Meeting of States Parties

8. The following 113 delegations participated in the Meeting of States Parties as follows: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zimbabwe.

9. In addition, one State 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, as contained in document [BWC/CONF.IX/2](#): Arab Republic of Egypt.

10. A list of all participants in the Meeting of States Parties is contained in document BWC/MSP/2024/INF.1.

IV. Arrangements for the meetings in 2025

11. The Meeting of States Parties decided to organize in 2025, in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the Convention, the following BWC-related meetings:

- (a) Sixth session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention from 11 to 22 August 2025;
- (b) Seventh session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention from 8 to 12 December 2025; and
- (c) 2025 Meeting of States Parties from 15 to 17 December 2025.

V. Documentation

12. A list of official documents of the Meeting of States Parties, 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 Convention's website at <https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/71785> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

VI. Conclusion of the Meeting of States Parties

13. At its closing meeting on 16 December 2024, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2024/CRP.1, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2024/6.

Annex I

List of documents of the 2024 Meeting of States Parties

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2024/1	Provisional agenda for the 2024 Meeting of States Parties
BWC/MSP/2024/2	Provisional programme of work
BWC/MSP/2024/3	Report on universalization activities
BWC/MSP/2024/4	Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit - Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/MSP/2024/5	Report on the Overall Financial Situation of the Biological Weapons Convention
BWC/MSP/2024/6	Report of the 2024 Meeting of States Parties
BWC/MSP/2024/CRP.1 English only	Draft report of the 2024 Meeting of States Parties
BWC/MSP/2024/MISC.1 English/French/Spanish only	Provisional list of participants
BWC/MSP/2024/INF.1 English/French/Spanish only	List of participants
BWC/MSP/2024/WP.1 Chinese and English only	Submitted by China and Lao People's Democratic Republic
BWC/MSP/2024/WP.2 English and Russian only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2024/WP.3 English only	Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2024/WP.4 English and Spanish only	Submitted by Cuba