

**WORKING GROUP ON THE STRENGTHENING OF  
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON  
THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 7-18 August 2023

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To the Permanent Representatives in Geneva of the  
States Parties and Signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition  
of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological  
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

25 May 2023

**SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE STRENGTHENING OF  
THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Excellency,

The adoption of a final consensus document at the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention represented a rare success for multilateralism and, especially, for disarmament in 2022. In a major breakthrough, the Review Conference decided to develop with a view to establishing a mechanism to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance, as well as a mechanism to review and assess relevant scientific and technological developments. The final consensus document also highlighted the importance of national implementation, topic under which substantive discussions on many judicious proposals were undertaken.

As you are aware, the Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention will be held at the Palais des Nations from 7 to 18 August 2023. We would hereby like to share with you impressions derived from initial regional and cross-regional consultations, as well as information related to practical arrangements for the Meeting.

In line with the indicative schedule of activities adopted at the First Meeting of the Working Group, the following topics will be addressed:

- 7 to 9 August 2023: international cooperation and assistance
- 10 August 2023: international cooperation and assistance mechanism
- 11 and 14 to 15 August 2023: scientific and technological developments
- 16 August 2023: science and technology review mechanism
- 17 to 18 August 2023: national implementation

During the aforementioned consultations, broad support was given to the notion that the mandates established by the Review Conference should be fulfilled in a "member-driven" process. With a view to propitiate a lead-up to the Second Meeting, facilitators for the topics of the agenda are being identified. It is with pleasure, therefore, that the Chair kindly reiterates his invitation for interested delegates to volunteer to such essential functions. At this moment, a friend of the Chair is particularly needed for the topic of national implementation, for which no facilitator has been identified yet.

The Chair is also pleased to invite all States Parties to an online consultation meeting to take place on 27 June 2023, between 16:00 and 18:00 (Geneva time). The electronic address for connection will

be informed in due course. This meeting is addressed to gather views from States Parties on their expectations for the Second Meeting.

On the basis of ongoing consultations, the Chair intends to circulate in the near future a draft non-binding tentative timetable for the Second Meeting.

The Working Group will meet in-person in Room XIX, in the E Building of the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva, accessible via the Pregny Gate. Sessions will take place from 10:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00 on the abovementioned dates. Formal credentials are **not** required for the Meetings of the Working Group. States Parties and Signatories are instead requested to register their participation by letter or note verbale addressed to the Implementation Support Unit, listing the details of their delegation as they would like it to appear in the official List of Participants. Please clearly identify the head of delegation. To avoid delays, I would kindly request delegations to register **no later than Friday 21 July 2023**.

Participants already in possession of a UNOG security badge can proceed directly to the meeting room. Participants who do not already have UNOG security badges will need to register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/1003811/> and follow the process described. These participants will be able to collect their security badge at the Pass and Identification Unit at the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations from 12:00 on Friday 4 August, or from 08:00 on Monday 7 August. Participants are advised to come to the Pregny Gate well in advance to allow enough time for security checks.

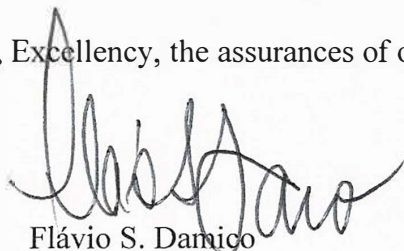
States Parties intending to submit working papers to the Second Meeting of the Working Group are encouraged to do so by **Monday 31 July 2023** in order that the documents are processed and made available to all participants in good time. Such documents should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to [bwc@un.org](mailto:bwc@un.org)

Room availability is limited because of the renovations of the Palais des Nations under the Strategic Heritage Plan. Side events will be held in Rooms XXII and XXV (both also in the E Building). Those wishing to organize side events are kindly requested to fill in the [online request form](#).

Detailed information on the arrangements for the Second Meeting of the Working Group is provided in the attached Aide-Mémoire. Please review this document carefully prior to registration. Further information and official documents for the Second Meeting of the Working Group can be obtained on the [UNODA Meetings Place](#)

Any queries can be directed to the Implementation Support Unit at [bwc@un.org](mailto:bwc@un.org)

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Flávio S. Damico  
Chair of the Working Group  
Special Representative of Brazil  
to the Conference on Disarmament



Daniel Feakes  
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit

Attachment:

1) Aide-Mémoire for participants from States Parties, Signatory States, Observer States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.