



## ***Special Representation of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament***

Chemin Camille-Vidart 17 - 1202 Genève –Suisse  
Tel. +41 22 332 50 44 - [disarmament.brazil@itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:disarmament.brazil@itamaraty.gov.br)

Geneva, 21 July 2023.

Excellency,

I am writing in my capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention. The second meeting of the Working Group will take place at the Palais des Nations from 7 to 18 August and I would therefore like to update you on preparations for the meeting and on my plans for the conduct of our discussions.

At the outset, I am pleased to inform you that the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, has agreed to record a video message to be shown at the opening of the meeting on 7 August. As you will recall, Ms. Nakamitsu attended the Review Conference and is taking a keen interest in our work here in Geneva.

I am pleased that around 80 States Parties have already submitted notes verbales to the Implementation Support Unit informing of their participation in the meeting. I would encourage other States Parties to also register their participation as soon as possible. In particular, experts coming from capital will need to register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/1003811/> to be able to gain access to the Palais.

I am very pleased that many of the facilitators have been working assiduously and consulting widely with delegations and regional groups in the run-up to the second meeting of the Working Group. As some new facilitators have begun work in the past weeks, I would like to provide here a list of all the facilitators thus far appointed:

- **International cooperation and assistance under Article X** - Mr. J. J. Domingo (the Philippines) and Mr. Thomas Fetz/Mr. Trevor Smith (Canada)
- **Scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention** - Ms. Grisselle Rodríguez (Panama), Mr. Peter Ahabwe/Mr. Musa Kwehangana (Uganda), Mr. Vincent Bodson (Belgium) and Mr. Ljupčo Gjorgjinski (North Macedonia)
- **Confidence-building and transparency** - Mr. Angel Horna (Peru) and Mr. Laurent Masmejean (Switzerland)
- **Compliance and verification** - Mr. Alonso Martínez (Mexico) and H.E. Mr. Robert Bosch (the Netherlands)
- **National implementation of the Convention** - Ms. Grisselle Rodríguez (Panama), Ms. Athikarn Dilogwathana (Thailand), Mr. Reski Ilahi (Indonesia), Ms. Faith Bagamuhunda (Uganda) and Ms. Michelle Carr (Australia)
- **Assistance, response and preparedness under Article VII** - Mr. Angel Dalmazzo (Argentina) and Ms. Sofie Kallehauge (Denmark)
- **Organizational, institutional and financial arrangements** - Mr. Husham Ahmed (Pakistan), H.E. Mr. Ichiro Ogasawara/Mr. Shigeru Umetsu (Japan) and Mr. Arsen Omarov (Kazakhstan)

I would also like to thank those delegations which have already submitted or are planning to submit working papers to the meeting, and I would like to encourage others to also submit working papers

containing their ideas and proposals for the topics under discussion at the meeting. To date, two working papers have been issued and are available on the webpage for the meeting at <https://meetings.unoda.org/bwc-/biological-weapons-convention-working-group-on-the-strengthening-of-the-convention-second-session-2023>:

- **BWC/WG/2/WP.1** - *ASEAN Member States' Perspective on International Cooperation and Assistance Under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC)*, Submitted by Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)
- **BWC/WG/2/WP.2** - *Assistance and Cooperation under Article X – Background and Options for Consideration*, Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

I am aware that several delegations are also preparing working papers and I would encourage their early submission to allow all States Parties to carefully consider them ahead of the meeting. Please check the abovementioned webpage regularly as the Implementation Support Unit will post all new documents there as quickly as possible. Such documents should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to [bwc@un.org](mailto:bwc@un.org)

As many delegations requested during our virtual informal consultations on 27 June, I have also reached out to several relevant international and regional organizations to request them to provide inputs to our meeting. I am pleased to report that the majority of them have accepted my invitation and will be delivering briefings during the days devoted to the three topics under discussion at next month's meeting. International organizations which have confirmed their participation include the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, INTERPOL, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, The World Academy of Sciences, the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, the Group of Experts pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). I am in consultation with other relevant organizations regarding their participation.

The attached draft indicative timetable indicates how I propose to structure our discussions. As you will recall, the first meeting of the Working Group decided that the following topics would be discussed at the upcoming meeting:

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

As you will see from the indicative timetable, I am proposing that the international organizations mentioned above will participate in panels on several mornings during the meeting. We will also hear from the facilitators on the three topics to be discussed, and the Implementation Support Unit will also provide briefings on activities within its mandate. I have however also ensured that most of the time is available for delegations to make remarks on the topics and to introduce any relevant working papers, given the strong interest expressed in the State Party-driven nature of the Working Group.

We have also received some requests for side events during the meeting which are currently being reviewed. A calendar of side events will be posted on the webpage of the meeting shortly. Meeting

rooms will also be available for regional groups and the Implementation Support Unit has already made appropriate arrangements with the group coordinators as appropriate.

If you have comments or suggestions on the attached draft timetable, please contact me via my Mission or via the Implementation Support Unit. I am available to meet with interested delegations before the Working Group convenes.

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



Flávio S. Damico  
Ambassador  
Special Representative of Brazil to the  
Conference on Disarmament

Attachment:

- 1) Preliminary Suggestions for the Indicative Timetable for the Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the BWC, 7 – 18 August 2023