

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

9 August 2023

Original: English

Second Session

Geneva, 7-18 August 2023

Agenda item 5

Procedural and organizational matters within the mandate of the Working Group

Draft procedural report of the second session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention¹

I. Opening of the second session of the Working Group

1. In accordance with the decisions of the Ninth Review Conference, the second session of the Working Group was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 7 to 18 August 2023. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Flavio Soares Damico, Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament. Ambassador Camille Petit, Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament, and Mr. Irakli Jgenti, Deputy Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, served as its Vice-Chairpersons.

2. The Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, addressed the Working Group via a video message.

3. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief, Implementation Support Unit, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva, served as Secretary of the Meeting. Mr. Hermann Lampalzer, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Deputy Secretary.

II. Participation at the second session of the Working Group

4. The following 116 delegations participated in the second session of the Working Group: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain

¹ 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.

and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

5. In addition, one State that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the second session of the Working Group without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the rules of procedure: Syrian Arab Republic.

6. Two States, Djibouti and Israel, neither parties nor signatories to the Convention, participated in the second session of the Working Group as observers, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2.

7. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Group of Experts supporting the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 attended the second session of the Working Group in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

8. The Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, the European Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The World Academy of Sciences, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health were granted observer status to participate in the second session of the Working Group in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

9. Twenty-one non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the second session of the Working Group under rule 44, paragraph 5.

10. A list of all participants in the second session of the Working Group is contained in document BWC/WG/2/INF.1.

III. Identifying, examining and developing specific and effective measures, including possible legally-binding measures, and making recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention in all its aspects within the mandate of the Working Group

11. In accordance with the indicative schedule of activities annexed to the procedural report of the first session of the Working Group (see Annex II of BWC/WG/1/2), the second session of the Working Group had substantive discussions on the topics allocated to it.

12. The topic of “Measures on international cooperation and assistance under Article X” was discussed from 7 to 9 August 2023. The following States Parties introduced working papers: the Philippines (on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) (BWC/WG/2/WP.1), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (BWC/WG/2/WP.2), the United States of America (on behalf of Australia, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (BWC/WG/2/WP.3), Japan (BWC/WG/2/WP.5), Canada and the Philippines (BWC/WG/2/WP.6), Japan, co-sponsored by Canada and Germany (BWC/WG/2/WP.7), the Islamic Republic of Iran (BWC/WG/2/WP.11), Pakistan (BWC/WG/2/WP.13), China (BWC/WG/2/WP.14) and the Russian Federation (BWC/WG/2/WP.18). Technical briefings were provided by the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, the Coalition on Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Group of Experts in support of the activities of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The World Academy of Sciences, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Disarmament, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health. There was also a brief overview of its activities presented by the Implementation Support Unit. There then followed an interactive discussion on the topic in which the following States Parties participated: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil,

Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Philippines (on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam), Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The European Union also made a statement.

13. The topic of “a mechanism open to all States Parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X” was discussed on 10 August 2023. The following States Parties introduced working papers: [...]. There then followed an interactive discussion on the topic in which the following States Parties participated: [...]

14. The topic of “Measures on scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention” was discussed on 11 and 14 and 15 August 2023. The following States Parties introduced working papers: [...]. Technical briefings were provided by [...]. There then followed an interactive discussion on the topic in which the following States Parties participated: [...]

15. The topic of “a mechanism to review and assess scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention and to provide States Parties with relevant advice” was discussed on 16 August 2023. The following States Parties introduced working papers: [...]. There then followed an interactive discussion on the topic in which the following States Parties participated: [...]

16. The topic of “Measures on national implementation of the Convention” was discussed on 17 and 18 August 2023. The following States Parties introduced working papers: [...]. Technical briefings were provided by [...]. There was also a brief overview of its activities presented by the Implementation Support Unit. There then followed an interactive discussion on the topic in which the following States Parties participated: [...]

IV. Documentation

17. A list of official documents of the second session of the Working Group is contained in Annex I to this report. All documents on this list are available on the BWC website at <https://meetings.unoda.org/bwc-/biological-weapons-convention-working-group-on-the-strengthening-of-the-convention-second-session-2023> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

V. Conclusion of the Meeting

18. At its closing meeting on [...] August 2023, the second session of the Working Group adopted its procedural report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/WG/2/1/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/WG/2/1.

Annex I

List of documents of the second session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/WG/2/1	Procedural report of the second session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention
BWC/WG/2/1/CRP.1 English only	Draft procedural report of the second session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention
BWC/WG/2/INF.1 English/French/Spanish only	List of participants of the second session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention
BWC/WG/2/WP.1 English only	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, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam)
BWC/WG/2/WP.2 English only	Assistance and Cooperation under Article X – Background and Options for Consideration - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/WG/2/WP.3 English only	Proposal for Establishing a Mechanism for Strengthening International Cooperation and Assistance - Submitted by Australia, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America
BWC/WG/2/WP.4 English only	Advances in Science and Technology: Background for Discussion of Measures to Strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/WG/2/WP.5 English only	Related activities and programmes conducted by relevant International Organizations and entities corresponding to possible measures to be discussed by the Working Group - Submitted by Japan
BWC/WG/2/WP.6 English only	Cooperation and Assistance Activities of International and Intergovernmental Organizations in Support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by Canada and the Philippines
BWC/WG/2/WP.7	Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction: Assistance,

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
English only	Cooperation and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) - Submitted by Japan, co-sponsored by Canada and Germany
BWC/WG/2/WP.8 English only	Advancements in Science and Technology Relevant to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: Examples of developments relevant to a new structured science and technology review process - Submitted by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/WG/2/WP.9 English only	Important Elements for the Establishment of a BTWC Science and Technology Review Process - Submitted by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/WG/2/WP.10 English only	2023 UK Biological Security Strategy - Submitted by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/WG/2/WP.11 English only	Proposals for Strengthening the Implementation of Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran
BWC/WG/2/WP.12 English only	Advances in the Field of Biological Science and Technology and Urgent Need to Maximize their Availability to Developing Countries - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran
BWC/WG/2/WP.13 English only	Proposal for Cooperation and Assistance Mechanism under Article X - Submitted by Pakistan
BWC/WG/2/WP.14 Chinese and English only	Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses under the Framework of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by China
BWC/WG/2/WP.15 English and Russian only	Contemporary Challenges to the Objectives of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BTWC) Related to the Development of Synthetic Biology Technologies and Practical Approaches to Overcome them - Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/WG/2/WP.16 English and Russian only	Strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. Proposal for the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Committee - Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/WG/2/WP.17 English and Russian only	National Implementation by the Russian Federation of the Obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction - Submitted by the Russian Federation

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/WG/2/WP.18 English and Russian only	International Cooperation of the Russian Federation under Article X of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction - Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/WG/2/WP.19 English only	Review mechanism for science and technology developments - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran
BWC/WG/2/WP.20 English only	Measures to Strengthen National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention: Information, Expectations, and International Cooperation - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/WG/2/WP.21 English only	Establishment of a Cooperation Committee to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran
