

# 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

17 March 2023

Original: English

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## First Session

Geneva, 15-16 March 2023

Agenda item 5

**Procedural and organizational matters within the mandate of the Working Group**

## Procedural report of the first session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention<sup>1</sup>

### I. Opening of the session of the Working Group

1. In accordance with the decisions of the Ninth Review Conference, the first session of the Working Group was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 15 to 16 March 2023. The meeting was opened by Ms. Carolyne Mélanie Regimbal, Chief of Service, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

### II. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group

2. The Working Group elected Ambassador Flavio Soares Damico, Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament as its Chairperson. The Working Group also elected 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, as its Vice-Chairpersons.

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 and Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij, Political Affairs Officer, also served in the secretariat.

### III. Adoption of the agenda of the Working Group

4. The Working Group adopted its agenda (to be issued as document BWC/WG/1/1) as contained in Annex I.

### IV. Confirmation of the Rules of Procedure of the Working Group

5. In accordance with the decision of the Ninth Review Conference, the Working Group confirmed as its rules of procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Ninth Review Conference, as contained in document [BWC/CONF.IX/2](#).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



## **V. Participation at the first session of the Working Group**

6. Eighty-two delegations participated in the first session of the Working Group as follows: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zimbabwe.

7. In addition, two States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the first 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: Arab Republic of Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic.

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

9. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs attended the first session of the Working Group in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

10. The European Union and the World Health Organization were granted observer status to participate in the first session of the Working Group in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

11. Two non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the first session of the Working Group under rule 44, paragraph 5.

12. A list of all participants in the first session of the Working Group is contained in document BWC/WG/1/INF.1.

## **VI. Procedural and organizational matters within the mandate of the Working Group**

13. In accordance with its agenda, the first session of the Working Group considered procedural and organizational matters and adopted the indicative schedule of activities contained in Annex II. Without prejudice to paragraph 16 of Part II of the Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference, the Working Group decided that reports of a procedural nature could be prepared for its sessions as appropriate on the basis of consensus.

14. The Working Group confirmed that the substantive meetings during 2023 will be held from 7 to 18 August and from 4 to 8 December.

## **VII. Documentation**

15. A list of official documents of the first session of the Working Group is contained in Annex III to this report. All documents on this list are available on the BWC website at <https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67449> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

**VIII. Conclusion of the Meeting**

16. At its closing meeting on 16 March 2023, the Working Group adopted its report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/WG/1/2/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/WG/1/2.

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention**

1. Opening of the session of the Working Group.
2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.
3. Adoption of the agenda of the Working Group.
4. Confirmation of the Rules of Procedure of the Working Group.
5. Procedural and organizational matters within the mandate of the Working Group.
6. 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.
7. Other matters within the mandate of the Working Group.
8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

## Annex II

### Indicative Schedule of activities of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention

The Working Group will adopt a report, by consensus, that includes conclusions and recommendations according to its mandate as contained in BWC/CONF.IX/9.

If the Working Group decides so by consensus, it will prepare the report (as required in paragraph 16, Part II of the Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference, BWC/CONF.IX/9) before the end of 2025. Otherwise, the Working Group will prepare the report during the second session of 2026.

2023						
1	August-1st week	International Cooperation & Assistance	International Cooperation & Assistance	International Cooperation & Assistance	International Cooperation & Assistance Mechanism	Scientific & Technological Developments
2	August-2nd week	Scientific & Technological Developments	Scientific & Technological Developments	S&T Review Mechanism	National Implementation	National Implementation
3	December	Confidence-building & transparency	Compliance & verification	Compliance & verification	Compliance & verification	Organizational, institutional & financial
2024						
4	Session 1 - 1st week	Assistance, Response & Preparedness	Assistance, Response & Preparedness	Assistance, Response & Preparedness	Assistance, Response & Preparedness	International Cooperation & Assistance
5	Session 1 - 2nd week	Scientific & Technological Developments	Confidence-Building & Transparency	Compliance & Verification	Compliance & Verification	Organizational, Institutional & Financial
6	Session 2	International Cooperation & Assistance Mechanism	S&T Review Mechanism	Compliance & Verification	Overall consideration of all topics as contained in paragraphs 8, 18 and 19	
2025						
7	Session 1 – 1st week	International Cooperation & Assistance	International Cooperation & Assistance	Scientific & Technological Developments	Scientific & Technological Developments	Confidence-Building & Transparency
8	Session 1 - 2nd week	Confidence-Building & Transparency	Compliance & Verification	Compliance & Verification	National Implementation	National Implementation
9	Session 2	Assistance, Response & Preparedness	Assistance, Response & Preparedness	Organizational, Institutional & Financial	Overall consideration of all topics as contained in paragraphs 8, 18 and 19	

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2026						
10	Session 1 – 1st week	International Cooperation & Assistance	International Cooperation & Assistance	Scientific & Technological Developments	Scientific & Technological Developments	Confidence- Building & Transparency
11	Session 1 - 2nd week	Compliance & Verification	Compliance & Verification	National implementation	Assistance, Response & Preparedness	Organizational, Institutional & Financial
12	Session 2	If the Working Group decides so by consensus, it will prepare the report (as required in paragraph 16, Part II of the Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference, BWC/CONF.IX/9) before the end of 2025. Otherwise, the Working Group will prepare the report during the second session of 2026.				

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## Annex III

### List of documents of the first session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/WG/1/1	Agenda of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention
BWC/WG/1/2	Procedural report of the first session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention
BWC/WG/1/2/CRP.1 English only	Draft procedural report of the first session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention
BWC/WG/1/INF.1 English/French/Spanish only	List of participants of the first session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention
BWC/WG/1/WP.1 English only	Topics to be considered by the Working Group on the strengthening of the BWC – Submitted by the Russian Federation

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