

# 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

18 December 2023

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## 2023 Meeting

Geneva, 11-13 December 2023

## Report of the 2023 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. By resolution 78/67, adopted without a vote on 4 December 2023, 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.

### II. Organization of the Meeting of States Parties

3. In accordance with the decisions of the Ninth Review Conference, the 2023 Meeting of States Parties was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 13 December 2023, chaired by Mr. Cristian Espinosa Cañizares, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva. Mr. Thomas Göbel,

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\* 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.



Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament and Mr. Nikola Yakov, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations, served as the two Vice-Chairs.

4. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, made remarks via a pre-recorded video message.

5. At its first meeting, on 11 December 2023, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2023/1), as contained in Annex I to this report. The Chairperson drew the attention of delegations to three reports: a report on universalization activities prepared by the Chairperson (BWC/MSP/2023/3); the report of the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2023/4); and a report on the overall financial situation of the Convention prepared by the Chairperson (BWC/MSP/2023/5).

6. The Meeting of States Parties was not able to adopt its programme of work (BWC/MSP/2023/2), as no consensus on this matter was reached.

7. The Meeting of States Parties was also not able to adopt its rules of procedure as contained in document BWC/CONF.IX/2, as no consensus on this matter was reached.

8. 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**

9. 120 delegations participated in the Meeting of States Parties as follows: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, 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, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

10. In addition, two States 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: Egypt; Syrian Arab Republic.

11. Three States, Chad, Comoros and Israel, neither parties nor signatories to the Convention, applied for observer status, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2.

12. The United Nations, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs attended the Meeting of States Parties in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

13. The Cooperative Security Treaty Organization, European Union, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Committee of the Red Cross, Organization of American States, Organization

for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Health Organization applied for observer agency status, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

14. Twenty-five non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of States Parties under rule 44, paragraph 5.

15. A list of all participants in the Meeting of States Parties is contained in document BWC/MSP/2023/INF.1.

#### **IV. Update by the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention**

16. The Chairperson of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention, Ambassador Flavio Soares Damico of Brazil, provided an update on the work of the Working Group during 2023. The Working Group held three sessions, from 15 to 16 March, from 7 to 18 August and from 4 to 8 December, adopting the procedural reports contained in documents BWC/WG/1/2, BWC/WG/2/1 and BWC/WG/3/1 respectively.

#### **V. Arrangements for the meetings in 2024**

17. The Meeting of States Parties decided to organize in 2024, in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the Convention, the following BWC-related meetings:

- (a) Fourth session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention from 19 to 23 August 2024;
- (b) Fifth session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention from 2 to 13 December 2024; and
- (c) 2024 Meeting of States Parties from 16 to 18 December 2024.

#### **VI. Documentation**

18. A list of official documents of the Meeting of States Parties, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in Annex II to this report. All documents on this list are available on the Convention's website at <https://meetings.unoda.org/bwc-msp/biological-weapons-convention-meeting-of-states-parties-2023> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

#### **VII. Conclusion of the Meeting of States Parties**

19. At its closing meeting on 13 December 2023, the Meeting of States Parties adopted its report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2023/CRP.1, as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2023/6.

## **Annex I**

### **Agenda of the 2023 Meeting of States Parties**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the programme of work.
4. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
5. General debate.
6. Update by the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention.
7. Management of the intersessional programme: Budgetary and financial matters.
8. Progress with universalization of the Convention.
9. Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit.
10. Arrangements for the meetings in 2024.
11. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
12. Closing of the meeting.

## Annex II

### List of documents of the 2023 Meeting of States Parties

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2023/1	Provisional agenda for the 2023 Meeting of States Parties - Submitted by the Chairperson
BWC/MSP/2023/2	Provisional programme of work - Submitted by the Chairperson
BWC/MSP/2023/3	Report on universalization activities - Submitted by the Chairperson
BWC/MSP/2023/4	Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit - Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/MSP/2023/5	Report on the Overall Financial Situation of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Chairperson
BWC/MSP/2023/6	Report of the 2023 Meeting of States Parties
BWC/MSP/2023/CRP.1 English only	Draft report of the 2023 Meeting of States Parties
BWC/MSP/2023/MISC.1 English/French/Spanish only	Provisional list of participants
BWC/MSP/2023/INF.1 English/French/Spanish only	List of participants
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.1/Rev.1 English and Russian only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.2 English and Russian only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.3 English and Russian only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.4 Spanish only	Submitted by Cuba
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.5 English only	Submitted by Norway
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.6 English only	Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.7 English only	Submitted by Sweden
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.8 English only	Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.9 English only	Submitted by Australia
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.10/Rev.1 English only	Submitted by Australia
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.11 English only	Submitted by Germany

BWC/MSP/2023/WP.12 English and French only	Submitted by France
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.13 English only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.14 English only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.15 English only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.16 English only	Submitted by Finland
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.17 English only	Submitted by Norway
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.18 English only	Submitted by Indonesia
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.19 English and Russian only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.20/Rev.1 English and Russian only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.21 English only	Submitted by Thailand
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.22 English only	Submitted by Singapore
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.23 English only	Submitted by the Lao People's Democratic Republic
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.24 English only	Submitted by Brazil
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.25 Spanish only	Submitted by Spain
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.26 English only	Submitted by Japan
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.27 English only	Submitted by Ukraine
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.28/Rev.1 English only	Submitted by Ukraine
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.29 English only	Submitted by Georgia
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.30 English only	Submitted by Pakistan
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.31 English only	Submitted by the Philippines
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.32 English only	Submitted by the Philippines
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.33 Spanish only	Submitted by Mexico
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.34 English only	Submitted by Japan
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.35 Chinese and English only	Submitted by China

BWC/MSP/2023/WP.36 Spanish only	Submitted by Colombia
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.37 English only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.38 English only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.39 English only	Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.40 Spanish only	Submitted by Cuba
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.41 Spanish only	Submitted by Ecuador
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.42 English only	Submitted by Türkiye
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.43 English only	Submitted by The Gambia
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.44 Spanish only	Submitted by Nicaragua
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.45 English only	Submitted by the State of Palestine
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.46 English only	Submitted by South Africa
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.47 English only	Submitted by Uganda
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.48 Arabic only	Submitted by Libya
BWC/MSP/2023/WP.49 English and Russian only	Submitted by the Russian Federation

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