

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

15 February 2022

Original: English

Preparatory Committee

Geneva, 20 December 2021 and 4-11 April 2022

Agenda item 7

Comprehensive consideration of all provisions of the Convention

Common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2017 to 2020

Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit*

Summary

The Preparatory Committee decided to request the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to prepare a background information document showing the common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2017 to 2020 (see BWC/CONF.IX/PC/2, paragraph 27). The ISU has duly compiled this document which reproduces the substantive paragraphs from the respective reports adopted by the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Meetings of States Parties. Annexed to the current document, in an effort to further support preparations by States Parties for the Ninth Review Conference, is a list of working papers submitted by States Parties and data analysis related to participation in BWC meetings.

I. Introduction

1. The Final Document of the Eighth Review Conference, in its Decisions and Recommendations section, contained the following decision:¹

“6. At its final plenary meeting, on 25 November 2016, the Conference decided that States Parties will hold annual meetings. The first such meeting, to be held in Geneva in 2017 starting on 4 December 2017, and having a duration of up to five days, will seek to make progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an intersessional process.

7. Following the practice agreed at the Seventh Review Conference, the Conference agreed that the first year’s meeting will be chaired by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States, the second by a representative of the Eastern European Group, the third by a representative of the

* This document is submitted late due to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

¹ See BWC/CONF.VIII/4, Part III, paragraphs 6-12.



Western Group, and the fourth by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups.

8. The Conference decides to renew the mandate of the Implementation Support Unit agreed to at the Seventh Review Conference, *mutatis mutandis*, for the period from 2017 to 2021. The annual meetings will consider the annual reports of the ISU and progress on universality.

9. The Conference decides to continue the cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference. The ISU, with inputs to be provided by States Parties, will seek to improve the database to ensure that it is more user-friendly and comprehensive, and ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of and requests for cooperation be provided by States Parties in the database.

10. In order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the annual meetings of States Parties, the Conference decides to renew the sponsorship programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties in a position to provide them. The sponsorship programme will continue to be administered by the Implementation Support Unit in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chairs of the Meeting of States Parties.

11. The Conference decides that the costs of the annual meetings of States Parties and of the ISU will be shared by all States Parties to the Convention, based on the United Nations scale of assessment pro-rated to take into account differences in membership between the Convention and the United Nations. In this respect, the Conference approves the estimated costs for the period 2017 to 2020, as contained in BWC/CONF.VIII/CRP.4.

12. The Conference notes that, under new UN financial procedures, funds must be available before meetings can be held. The Conference requests States Parties to proceed with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment notices have been received from the United Nations to help ensure that the meetings can be held as scheduled.”

2. In accordance with the above decision of the Eighth Review Conference, the 2017 Meeting of States Parties reached consensus on the following decisions:²

“19. The 2017 Meeting of States Parties discussed issues of substance and process for the period before the Ninth Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an intersessional process. Consensus was reached on:

(a) Reaffirming previous intersessional programmes from 2003-2015 and retaining the previous structures: annual Meetings of States Parties preceded by annual Meetings of Experts.

(b) The purpose of the intersessional programme is to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on those issues identified for inclusion in the intersessional programme.

(c) Recognizing the need to balance an ambition to improve the intersessional programme within the constraints – both financial and human resources – facing States Parties, twelve days are allocated to the intersessional programme each year from 2018- 2020. The work in the intersessional period will be guided by the aim of strengthening the implementation of all articles of the Convention in order to better respond to current challenges. The Meetings of Experts for eight days will be held back to back and at least three months before the annual Meetings of States Parties of four days each. Maximum use would be made of the Sponsorship Programme funded by voluntary contributions in order to facilitate participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme.

² See BWC/MSP/2017/6, paragraph 19.

(d) The meetings of the MSP will be chaired by a representative of the EEG in 2018, a representative of the Western Group in 2019 and a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned Movement and Other States in 2020. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups. In addition to the reports of the Meetings of Experts, the Meetings of States Parties will consider the annual reports of the ISU and progress on universality. The Meetings of Experts will be chaired in 2018 by [the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC] (MX 1 and MX 2) and the Western Group (MX 3 and MX4), in 2019 by EEG (MX1 and MX 2) and NAM (MX 3 and MX 4), and in 2020 by Western Group (MX 1 and MX 2) and by EEG (MX 3 and MX 4); MX 5 will be chaired by the regional group chairing the MSP.

	<i>MSP</i>	<i>MX 1</i>	<i>MX 2</i>	<i>MX 3</i>	<i>MX 4</i>	<i>MX 5</i>
2018	EEG	NAM	NAM	WG	WG	EEG
2019	WG	EEG	EEG	NAM	NAM	WG
2020	NAM	WG	WG	EEG	EEG	NAM

All meetings will be subject mutatis mutandis to the rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference.

(e) The Meetings of Experts would be open-ended and will consider the following topics:

MX1 (2 days): Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X:

- Consideration of the reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X;
- Review of the report by the ISU on the operation of the assistance and cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference and consideration of its further operationalization, including measures to further strengthen the operation of the database, including in the light of BWC/MSP/2017/4;
- Identification of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible ways and means of overcoming these;
- Development of guidelines and procedures for mobilizing resources, including financial resources on a voluntary basis to address gaps and needs;
- Facilitation of education, training, exchange and twinning programs and other means of developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;
- Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation;
- Collaboration with international organizations and networks related to combating infectious diseases at all levels, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote implementation of all articles of the Convention.

MX2 (2 days): Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention:

- Review of science and technology developments relevant to the Convention, including for the enhanced implementation of all articles of the Convention as well as the identification of potential benefits and risks of new science and technology developments relevant to the Convention, with a particular attention to positive implications;
- Biological risk assessment and management;
- Development of a voluntary model code of conduct for biological scientists and all relevant personnel, and biosecurity education, by drawing on the work already done on this issue in the context of the Convention, adaptable to national requirements;
- In 2018, the MX2 will address the specific topic of genome editing, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the issues identified above;
- Any other science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention and also to the activities of relevant multilateral organizations such as the WHO, OIE, FAO, IPPC and OPCW.

MX3 (1 day): Strengthening national implementation:

- Measures related to Article IV of the Convention;
- CBM submissions in terms of quantity and quality;
- Various ways to promote transparency and confidence building under the Convention;
- Role of international cooperation and assistance under Article X, in support of strengthening the implementation of the Convention;
- Issues related to Article III, including effective measures of export control, in full conformity with all Articles of the Convention, including Article X.

MX4 (2 days): Assistance, response and preparedness:

- Practical challenges facing the implementation of Article VII, and possible solutions;
- A set of guidelines and formats to assist a State Party, if required, when submitting an application for assistance in the framework of Article VII;
- Procedures, including the establishment and use of the assistance database, to improve the prompt and efficient response without preconditions to a request of assistance by a State Party under Article VII, and coordination and cooperation among States Parties and with relevant international and regional organizations such as WHO, OIE and FAO, as appropriate;
- Examination of how the concept of mobile biomedical units might contribute to effective assistance, response and preparation with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention;
- Exploration of approaches by which States Parties, individually or collectively, might contribute to the strengthening of international response capabilities for infectious disease outbreaks, whether natural or deliberate in origin;
- Exploration of means to prepare for, respond to and render assistance in case of the possible hostile use of biological agents and toxins against agriculture, livestock as well as the natural environment.

MX.5 (1 day): Institutional strengthening of the Convention:

- Consideration of the full range of approaches and options to further strengthen the Convention and its functioning through possible additional legal measures or other measures in the framework of the Convention.

(f) Each Meeting of Experts will prepare for the consideration of the annual Meeting of States Parties a factual report reflecting its deliberations, including possible outcomes. All meetings, both of Experts and of States Parties will reach any conclusions or results by consensus. The Meeting of States Parties will be responsible for managing the intersessional programme, including taking necessary measures with respect to budgetary and financial matters by consensus with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the intersessional programme. The Ninth Review Conference will consider the work and outcomes it receives from the Meetings of States Parties and the Meetings of Experts and decide by consensus on any inputs from the intersessional programme and on any further action.”

3. Although the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Meetings of States Parties did not reach common understandings in the sense that previous intersessional programmes did, as requested by the Preparatory Committee, the present document shows in the following section common understandings that were reached by the Meetings of States Parties on various issues. Section III provides some brief administrative and procedural observations on the intersessional programme from the perspective of the ISU. The annexes provide some information which may be of use to States Parties in evaluating the intersessional programme in the context of preparations for the Ninth Review Conference.

II. Common understandings**A. Management of the intersessional programme: Budgetary and financial matters****2017**

4. On this agenda item, the final report of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties contained the following:³

“20. The meeting considered financial matters under item 9 of its agenda. Noting with concern the financial situation of the Convention on account inter alia of systemic issues with the current funding arrangements as well as arrears in payment of assessed contributions, the Meeting requested the Chairman of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to prepare an Information Paper in consultation with the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Implementation Support Unit and States Parties on measures to address financial predictability and sustainability for the meetings agreed by the States Parties and for the Implementation Support Unit for review by States Parties in 2018.

21. The Implementation Support Unit presented cost estimates for the intersessional programme for 2018 to 2020 in the form of two options representing an additionality of five days or ten days over the cost estimates approved by the Eighth Review Conference (see document [BWC/CONF.VIII/5](#)). In the light of the intersessional programme agreed in paragraph 19, the Meeting of States Parties agreed that these cost estimates would be adjusted and shared with States Parties at the earliest as document [BWC/MSP/2017/5](#).”

³ See [BWC/MSP/2017/6](#), paragraphs 20-21.

2018

5. On this agenda item, the final report of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties contained the following:⁴

“20. The Meeting reviewed the Information Paper prepared by the Chairman, Mr. Ljupčo Jivan Gjorgjinski ([BWC/MSP/2018/5](#)), in accordance with paragraph 20 of [BWC/MSP/2017/6](#) which examined the financial situation and identified possible measures to address predictability and sustainability, with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the intersessional programme. Mr. Clemens Adams, Director of Administration, United Nations Office at Geneva, presented the status of contributions and financial outlook of the Convention on 5 December 2018. Mr. Adams and Ms. Anja Kaspersen, Director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva Branch, responded to questions from delegations. States Parties recognized that the Convention’s financial difficulties stem from three principal sources: non-payment of contributions by some States Parties, delays in receipt of contributions from other States Parties and financial requirements of the United Nations with respect to activities not funded from the Regular Budget of the United Nations. In order to address these, the Meeting of States Parties endorsed the following measures:

A. Measures to Encourage Timely Payment

21. The Meeting of States Parties:

(a) Stressed that the payment of annual assessed contributions by the States Parties in a timely manner and in full is necessarily of utmost importance for the financial sustainability of the Convention and full implementation of the intersessional programme of work, and stressed that States Parties shall honour their obligations under the Convention;

(b) Requested States Parties in arrears to pay outstanding amounts at the earliest possible date;

(c) Taking note of challenges encountered by some States Parties in meeting their financial obligations, requested the Chair of the Meeting of States Parties to contact these States Parties to better understand reasons for non-payment, and encourage prompt payment;

(d) Called on all States Parties to seek to pay invoices at the earliest possible date and, where feasible, in advance of the beginning of the year; and

(e) Requested the United Nations Office at Geneva to send invoices at least 90 days prior to the start of the year.

B. Measures to Ensure Liquidity

22. The Meeting of States Parties agreed that:

(a) As an interim measure, to be reviewed at the Ninth Review Conference for its effectiveness and the possibility explored to be financed by assessed contributions, pending other possible steps to assure liquidity, to establish a Working Capital Fund (WCF), to be financed by voluntary contributions and used solely as a source of short-term financing pending receipt of reasonably anticipated contributions, taking into account the average collection rate and pattern of payments over the preceding three years. Drawdowns from the WCF should be repaid to the WCF from annual assessed contributions of States Parties within 12 months. In order to ensure the

⁴ See [BWC/MSP/2018/6](#), paragraphs 20-24.

continuity of approved programmes and activities, priority should be given to funding the contracts of the Implementation Support Unit; and

(b) Accounts for each financial year are to remain open for the subsequent 12 months, at which time the accounts should be closed, a final balance determined, and any surplus funds allocated back to States Parties as a credit against their next assessment. Unused balances at the end of the financial year may be used as a source of short-term financing for mandated activities during this interim period.

C. Measures to Avoid Deficit Spending/Accumulation of Liabilities

23. The Meeting of States Parties:

(a) Affirmed that financial obligations for a given year will be limited to an amount based upon the average collection rate for the preceding three years until and unless contributions for the year indicate that level will be exceeded. The Chair will manage possible impacts on the approved programme of work in consultation with the other officers and proceeding in an open, transparent, and consultative manner;

(b) Confirmed that arrears for unpaid contributions should remain the amount of the initial assessment invoiced to the relevant State Party for the year in question;

(c) Requested the United Nations to calculate credits due to States Parties that paid for a given financial year on the basis of the final cash balance following the closure of the accounts for that financial year; and

(d) Determined that delegations from signatory and non-signatory observer States should contribute to the costs of the meetings in which they participate on the basis of their shares in the Scale of Assessments of the United Nations.

D. Further Measures

24. The Meeting of States Parties further:

(a) Requested regular reporting on expenditure, collections, and use of the Working Capital Fund by the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Implementation Support Unit;

(b) Requested the Chair of the 2019 Meeting of States Parties, in full consultation with the States Parties and taking into account their views, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the United Nations Office at Geneva, to identify further measures, including possible measures to incentivize payment, for consideration at the 2019 Meeting of States Parties; and

(c) Resolved to continue monitoring the financial situation of the Convention and requested the Chair of the 2019 Meeting of States Parties, in close consultation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office at Geneva, to report on the overall financial situation of the Convention, implementation of measures above, and possible further measures to bring about timely payment as required, for consideration by the 2019 Meeting of States Parties.’

2019

6. On this agenda item, the final report of the 2019 Meeting of States Parties contained the following:⁵

“22. The Meeting reviewed a report prepared by the Chairman on the overall financial situation of the Convention (BWC/MSP/2019/5). Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, presented the status of contributions and financial outlook of the Convention on 5 December 2019.

23. States Parties noted the report prepared by the Chairman and the briefing provided by the Implementation Support Unit. They welcomed the improvement of the financial situation this year, following the measures endorsed by the MSP in 2018, including the establishment of the working capital fund. They stressed the need to continue monitoring the financial situation of the Convention and requested the Chair of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties, in close consultation with the States Parties, the Implementation Support Unit, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office at Geneva, to report on the overall financial situation of the Convention, implementation of the measures endorsed in 2018, and possible further measures, in a transparent way and taking into account outstanding credits for those States Parties who paid their contribution in full to bring about timely payment as required, for consideration by the 2020 Meeting of States Parties.”

2020

7. On this agenda item, the final report of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties contained the following:⁶

“21. The Meeting reviewed a report prepared by the Chairperson on the overall financial situation of the Convention (BWC/MSP/2020/5). Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, presented the status of contributions and financial outlook of the Convention on 25 November 2021.

22. States Parties noted the report prepared by the Chairperson and the briefing provided by the Implementation Support Unit. They stressed the need to continue monitoring the financial situation of the Convention and to explore possible further measures to stabilize it for consideration at the Ninth Review Conference. They noted the measures endorsed at the 2018 Meeting of States Parties including the establishment of the Working Capital Fund, which is to be reviewed at the Ninth Review Conference.

23. Further to the measures endorsed by the 2018 Meeting of States Parties, States Parties agreed the following:

(a) as a follow-up to paragraph 21(e) of the final report of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to request the United Nations Office at Geneva to send invoices based on the cost estimates at least 90 days before the start of the financial period or 60 days after the States Parties have adopted the budget for the next financial period, whichever is later, to encourage early payment by those in a position to do so and improve liquidity; and

(b) the credit calculation is based on the same UN assessment rates used at the time of the preparation of the preliminary assessment.”

⁵ BWC/MSP/2019/7, paragraphs 22-23.

⁶ See BWC/MSP/2020/7, paragraphs 21-23.

B. Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes

2018

8. On this agenda item, the final report of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties contained the following:⁷

“25. In accordance with the decision of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, States Parties continued at the Meetings of Experts to seek common understandings and effective action on the topics regarding the strengthening of the Convention.

26. No consensus was reached on the deliberations including any possible outcomes of the Meetings of Experts.”

2019

9. On this agenda item, the final report of the 2019 Meeting of States Parties contained the following:⁸

“24. In accordance with the decision of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, States Parties continued at the Meetings of Experts to seek common understandings and effective action on the topics regarding the strengthening of the Convention.

25. No consensus was reached on the deliberations including any possible outcomes of the Meetings of Experts.

26. The Meetings of Experts took place in Geneva and considered the topics assigned to them by the 2017 Meeting of States Parties. The Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X was chaired by Ambassador Victor Dolidze of Georgia from 29 to 30 July 2019. The Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention was chaired by Mr. Yury Nikolaichik of Belarus on 31 July and 2 August 2019. The Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation was chaired by Ms. Lebogang Phihlela of South Africa on 5 August 2019. The Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness was chaired by Mr. Usman Iqbal Jadoon of Pakistan from 6 to 7 August 2019. The Meeting of Experts on Institutional Strengthening of the Convention was chaired by Mr. Laurent Masmejean of Switzerland on 8 August 2019.

27. The Meeting of States Parties expressed its gratitude to the Chairs of the Meetings of Experts and noted the reports of the Meetings of Experts, as contained in documents [BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/2](#), [BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/2](#), [BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/2](#), [BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/2](#) and [BWC/MSP/2019/MX.5/2](#). The Meeting of States Parties noted the value of the work of the Meetings of Experts and the discussions that took place.”

2020

10. On this agenda item, the final report of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties contained the following:⁹

“24. In accordance with the decision of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, States Parties continued at the Meetings of Experts to seek common understandings and effective action on the topics regarding the strengthening of the Convention.

⁷ See [BWC/MSP/2018/6](#), paragraphs 25-26.

⁸ See [BWC/MSP/2019/7](#), paragraphs 24-27.

⁹ See [BWC/MSP/2020/7](#), paragraphs 24-28.

25. The Meetings of Experts took place in Geneva and considered the topics assigned to them by the 2017 Meeting of States Parties. As reflected in the reports of each of the Meetings of Experts, they were originally scheduled to take place from 25 August to 3 September 2020. However, the Meetings were postponed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, according to the agreement by States Parties by written silence procedure, they were instead convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 30 August to 8 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X was chaired by Mr. Kimmo Laukkanen of Finland from 30 to 31 August 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention was chaired by Mr. Kazuhiro Nakai of Japan from 1 to 2 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation was chaired by Mr. Arman Baissuanov of Kazakhstan on 3 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness was chaired by Ambassador Elena Kuzmanovska Biondic of North Macedonia from 6 to 7 September 2021. The Meeting of Experts on Institutional Strengthening of the Convention was chaired by Ms. Grisselle del Carmen Rodriguez Ramirez of Panama on 8 September 2021.

26. The Meeting of States Parties expressed its gratitude to the Chairs of the Meetings of Experts and noted the reports of the Meetings of Experts, as contained in documents [BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/2](#), [BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/2/Rev.1](#), [BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/2](#), [BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/2](#) and [BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/2](#). The Meeting of States Parties noted the value of the work of the Meetings of Experts and the discussions that took place.

27. The meeting considered proposals on how to reflect the deliberations, including possible outcomes of the Meetings of Experts, but the consideration was inconclusive.

28. The Meeting of States Parties welcomed the substantive discussions of the Meetings of Experts. No consensus was reached on the deliberations including any possible outcomes of the Meetings of Experts.”

III. Administrative and procedural observations from the Implementation Support Unit

11. The 2018-2020 intersessional programme as agreed by the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, represented a departure from the preceding intersessional programmes. Whereas all annual meetings of the previous intersessional programmes had been chaired by the same individual (both the Meetings of Experts and the Meetings of States Parties), the 2018-2020 intersessional programme introduced five separate Meetings of Experts, each one chaired by a different person, with the Meeting of States Parties being chaired by another individual. This new format increased complexity and meant that much time had to be spent on coordination issues, but it also meant that all regional groups and a number of States Parties were engaged in BWC matters throughout the year every year. Regular “bureau” meetings were important to maintain coordination and oversight of the intersessional programme and became particularly crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new format also allowed for a much clearer distinction between the technically focused Meetings of Experts and the more politically focused Meetings of States Parties.

12. The 2018-2020 intersessional programme also increased slightly the number of days devoted to BWC discussions as compared with the previous intersessional programme from 2012-2015 which only had ten days of meetings per year, albeit not to the level of the 2003-2005 intersessional programme which featured 15 days of meetings per year. Despite the increase as compared with the meetings held from 2012 to 2015, there were still occasions on which the time allocated was not sufficient. This was the case with the 2019 Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation, and was particularly the case with each Meeting of States Parties where four days did not seem to be adequate to undertake all the tasks assigned to the Meetings.

13. Financial issues took up a large amount of time during the 2018-2020 intersessional programme, much more than in any previous cycle. The 2018, 2019 and 2020 Meetings of States Parties had a specific agenda item on “Management of the intersessional programme: Budgetary and financial matters” under which the 2018 Meeting of States Parties endorsed a series of financial measures which much improved the financial situation of the Convention. The Chairperson of each Meeting of States Parties submitted a report on the overall financial situation of the Convention, and additional financial measures were agreed by the 2020 Meeting of States Parties. However, a number of States Parties still have significant arrears, and the Chairpersons had to devote much time to encouraging payment of these arrears, with some success.

14. The COVID-19 pandemic obviously had a significant impact on the 2018-2020 intersessional programme, resulting in the postponement by almost one year of the meetings originally scheduled to take place in 2020. In order to allow for informal discussions and to maintain engagement on BWC issues, the Chairperson of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties requested the ISU to organize informal webinars in cooperation with the Chairs of the Meetings of Experts. These webinars were well-attended and enabled informal discussions on issues even when formal meetings were not possible.

15. The pandemic has accelerated and regularized other technical innovations. Even before the pandemic, BWC meetings were being webcast live on UN WebTV, something which is now standard practice. The recordings are archived and are made available directly from the meetings pages of the BWC website along with automated transcripts of the meetings.¹⁰ Upgrades made to the infrastructure in the meeting rooms during the intersessional programme have also made it much easier for experts to deliver technical presentations and for pre-recorded video messages to be shown.

16. The Implementation Support Unit hopes that these brief observations from the administrative and procedural perspective may be of use to States Parties when evaluating the 2018-2020 intersessional programme and when considering a possible follow-on intersessional programme after the Ninth Review Conference.

¹⁰ Links to webpages for BWC meetings can be found at <https://www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons/about/meetings/>.

Annex I

[English only]

Working papers submitted by States Parties (2017-2020)

MX1 - Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X

2018 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.1](#) - Australia's Article X report for 2016 and 2017 – Submitted by Australia

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.2](#) - Promotion of Capacity Building: Sustainable Laboratories for High Consequence Pathogens - Submitted by Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.3](#) - Report on BWC Implementation Workshop Rabat, Morocco, 10-11 May 2018 - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.4](#) - Outcome of the International Workshop on Cooperation and Assistance under Article X – Submitted by Norway

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.5](#) - Institutional Mechanism for International Co-operation and Compliance with Article X - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.6](#) - Cooperation and Assistance, with a particular focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.7](#) - Report on Implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.8](#) - Comparative review of biological threats needs assessment and national action plans implemented under BTWC, EU CBRN Centres of Excellence, WHO (IHR-JEE), and 1540 UNSCR, African Regional Conference, 25-26 October 2017, Rabat, Morocco - Submitted by the European Union

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.9](#) - Improving the Utility and Functioning of the BWC Assistance and Cooperation Database - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.10](#) - Participation of the Russian Federation in implementation of the Article X of the BTWC - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.11](#) - Implementación del Artículo X de la Convención de Armas Biológicas (CAB) – Submitted by Cuba (Spanish only)

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.12](#) - Cooperation and Assistance, with a particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

2019 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/WP.1](#) - Facilitating the fullest possible exchange of science and technology under Article X - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/WP.2](#) - Capacity Building through International Cooperation: The British Medical Journal's Clinical Decision Support Training Initiative - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/WP.3](#) - Institutional Mechanism for International Cooperation and Compliance with Article X - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/WP.4](#) - Cooperation and Assistance, with a particular focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/WP.5](#) - Report on implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/WP.6](#) - Cooperation and Assistance, with a particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC

2020 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/WP.1](#) - Report on Implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/WP.2](#) - What constitutes assistance and cooperation under Article X ? -Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/WP.3](#) - Proposal for establishment of an international platform dedicated to biosecurity and biosafety: SecBio - Submitted by France

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/WP.4](#) - Contributions to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic - Submitted by the United States

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/WP.5](#) - Pandemia as catalyst to enhance cooperation and assistance? Germany's continued implementation of Article X under the special circumstances of COVID-19 - Submitted by Germany

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/WP.6](#) - Challenges and obstacles to international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology under Article X - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.1/WP.7](#) - Difficulties and obstacles faced by Cuba for the full implementation of Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by Cuba

MX2 - Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention

2018 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.1](#) - Germany's best practice in handling (bio)security-relevant research: Self-governance organized by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the German Research Foundation (DFG) - Submitted by Germany

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.2](#) - Technical Working Paper on Genome Editing and Other Scientific and Technological Developments of Relevance to the Convention - Submitted by Switzerland

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.3](#) - Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention - Genome editing – Submitted by Australia

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.4](#) - Genome editing: addressing implications for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.5](#) - Recent Advances in Gene Editing and Synthesis Technologies and their Implications - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.6](#) - Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention - Genome Editing - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.7](#) - Report of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on Developments in Science and Technology for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention - Note by the Implementation Support Unit

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.8](#) - Response by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the Report of the Scientific Advisory Board of the on Developments in Science and Technology for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention - Note by the Implementation Support Unit

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.9](#) - Proposal for the development of a model code of conduct for biological scientists under the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by China and Pakistan

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.10](#) - Códigos de Conducta en el Marco de la Convención de Armas Biológicas – Submitted by Cuba

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.11](#) - Nuevos adelantos de la Ciencia y la Tecnología en la Esfera de la Biología, en particular la Edición de Genes y la Biología Sintética – Submitted by Cuba

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.12](#) - Review of Developments in the field of Science and Technology related to the Convention - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

2019 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.1](#) - Rethinking the BTWC science and technology review: A renewed case for a BTWC Scientific and Technological Experts Advisory Forum (STEAF) - Submitted by Germany, co-sponsored by the Netherlands and Sweden

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.1/Corr.1](#) - Rethinking the BTWC science and technology review: A renewed case for a BTWC Scientific and Technological Experts Advisory Forum (STEAF) - Submitted by Germany, co-sponsored by Chile, the Netherlands and Sweden

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.2](#) - Scientific and Technological Developments of Relevance to the Convention and the Assessment of Benefits and Risks - Submitted by Switzerland

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.3](#) - Approaches to Risk and Benefit Assessment for Advances in the Life Sciences - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.4](#) - Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention – Synthetic biology - Submitted by Australia

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.5](#) - Scientific and Technological Developments of Relevance to the Convention - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.6](#) - Biological risk assessment and management: some further considerations - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.7](#) - Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC

2020 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.1](#) - Approaches to Governance for Scientific and Technological Advances in the Life Sciences Relevant to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.2](#) - Biorisk management standards and their role in BTWC implementation - Submitted by Austria, Belgium, Chile, France, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain and Thailand

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.3](#) - Biological risk assessment and management: a need for guiding principles and frameworks-Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.4](#) - Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention Proposal for the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Committee - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.5*](#) - Exploring Science and Technology Review Mechanisms under the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by Germany

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.6](#) - The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists - Submitted by China and Pakistan

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.6/Corr.1](#) - The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists - Submitted by China and Pakistan, co-sponsored by Brazil

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.7](#) - A Scientific and Technological Advisory Process for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.8](#) - Summary of October 2020 Experts' Meeting on Strengthening Laboratory Biorisk Management - Submitted by the United States

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.9](#) - Benefits of science and technology developments for the global COVID-19 response - Submitted by the United States

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.10](#) - Managing Biosafety and Biosecurity Risks: The Importance of Codes of Conduct and a BTWC Science and Technology Advisory Process - Submitted by Switzerland

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.11](#) - Review Process of Science and Technology Developments relevant to the BWC: Some Considerations - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.12](#) - Examen de los adelantos en la esfera de la ciencia y la tecnología relacionados con la Convención - Presentado por Cuba

MX3 – Strengthening National Implementation

2018 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.1/Rev.1](#) - El transporte de agentes biológicos debe protegerse con medidas de Biocustodia - Submitted by Chile, Colombia, Panama and Spain (unofficial English translation in the annex)

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.2](#) - Building Confidence in Compliance: Peer Review Transparency Exercise at the Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research (CPHR) of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) in Tbilisi, Georgia - Submitted by Georgia, co-sponsored by Germany

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.3](#) - Improving the Quality of CBM Information: A Review of Recent Proposals and Some Suggestions for Future Work - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.4](#) - Strengthening national implementation: The UK Biological Security Strategy 2018 - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.5](#) - Séminaire sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur l'Interdiction des Armes Biologiques et à Toxines (Rabat, 10 et 11 Mai 2018) - Submitted by Morocco

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.6](#) - Step-by-Step Approach to CBM Participation Submitted by Japan, Co-sponsored by Australia, Germany, Malaysia, and Switzerland

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.6/Corr.1](#) - Step-by-Step Approach to CBM Participation Submitted by Japan, Co-sponsored by Australia, Germany, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Switzerland

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.7](#) - National Implementation under Article IV - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.8](#) - Cumplimiento de las Disposiciones de la Convención de Armas Biológicas (CAB) – Submitted by Cuba

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.3/WP.9](#) - Strengthening National Implementation - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

2019 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/WP.1](#) - Strengthening National Implementation: The United States National Biodefense Strategy - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/WP.2/Rev.1](#) - Proposals to Enhance Confidence-Building Measures Participation - Submitted by Japan, co-sponsored by Australia, Germany, Malaysia and Republic of Korea

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/WP.3](#) - National Implementation under Article IV - Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/WP.4](#) - Confidence Building Measure G - Declaration of Vaccine Production Facilities: identifying additional relevant facilities - Submitted by Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/WP.5](#) - An Exchange Platform for Voluntary Transparency Exercises - Submitted by France

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/WP.6](#) - Strengthening National Implementation - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

2020 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/WP.1](#) - Online training course for Biological Weapons Convention National Contact Points in Southeast Asia : a model approach for other regions - Submitted by Japan

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/WP.2](#) - U.S. Project to Strengthen BWC National Implementation: An Offer of Assistance - Submitted by the United States

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/WP.3](#) - Strengthening National Implementation: The National Biorisk Management Committee in Iraq (Overview) - Submitted by the Republic of Iraq

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/WP.4](#) - An exchange Platform for voluntary transparency exercises: Terms of reference - Submitted by Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Spain

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/WP.5](#) - Fortalecimiento de la Implementación Nacional - Presentado por Cuba

MX4 – Assistance, Response and Preparedness

2018 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.1](#) - Assistance and protection from biological weapons in the context of Article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Russian Federation (unofficial English translation in the annex)

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.2](#) - The United Kingdom public health rapid support team concept - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.3](#) - Implementation of Article VII - Submitted by South Africa

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.4](#) - Provision of assistance to a State Party that has been exposed as a result of a violation of the Convention - Submitted by South Africa

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.5](#) - Recent International Developments Relevant to Article VII - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.6](#) - Australia's Health Security Initiative: Strengthening regional response capabilities for infectious disease outbreaks - Submitted by Australia

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.7](#) - Strengthening Cooperation among States Parties and Relevant International Organizations in Response to Deliberate Spread of Infectious Diseases - Submitted by Japan, co-sponsored by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.8](#) - A contribution to the discussions on the practical challenges facing the implementation of Article VII, and possible solutions - Submitted by Canada

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.9](#) - Strengthening Article VII: International Cooperation and Assistance in Preparing for and Responding to Biological Incidents - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.10](#) - Investigations of Alleged Biological Weapons Use: Overlap with Public Health Assistance under Article VII of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.11](#) - Assistance, response and preparedness - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

2019 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.1](#) - An integrated approach to preparedness, detection, and response to agricultural threats: The experience of the United States - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.2](#) - Update on Australia's Health Security Initiative for the Indo-Pacific region: Strengthening regional response capabilities for infectious disease outbreaks - Submitted by Australia

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.3](#) - Approach to Strengthening Measures for Emerging Infectious Diseases based on Lessons Learned from the Ebola Outbreak - Submitted by Japan

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.4](#) - Strengthening National, Sub-Regional and International Capacities to Prepare for and Respond to the Deliberate Use of Biological Weapons: Project update - Submitted by Japan

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.5](#) - Possible hostile use of biological agents and toxins against livestock: Existing support mechanisms by relevant international organizations and capacity

building efforts by Canada through the G7-Led Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction - Submitted by Canada

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.6](#) - Core Elements for an Effective Article VII Response: the need for an international coordinating body - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.7](#) - Assistance, response and preparedness - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC

2020 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/WP.1](#) - Strengthening National, Sub-Regional and International Capacities to Prepare for and Respond to the Deliberate Use of Biological Weapons”: Project update - Submitted by Japan

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/WP.2](#) - Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention Operationalising mobile biomedical units to deliver protection against biological weapons, investigate their alleged use, and to suppress epidemics of various etiology- Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/WP.3](#) - Proposal for the establishment of a database for assistance under Article VII of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: specific pending issues and way forward for the operationalization of the proposal - Submitted by India and France

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/WP.3/Corr.1](#) - Proposal for the establishment of a database for assistance under Article VII of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention: specific pending issues and way forward for the operationalization of the proposal - Submitted by India and France

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/WP.4*](#) - Lessons Learned in International Cooperation and Assistance from an Agricultural Incident - Submitted by the United States

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.4/WP.5](#) - Strengthening Capacities in Responding to and Preparing for the Deliberate Use of Biological Weapons: Lessons Learned from UNSGM Table Top Exercise 2020 and Outlook to the Capstone Field Exercise - Submitted by Germany

MX5 – Institutional Strengthening of the Convention

2018 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.5/WP.1](#) - Investigation framework to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by Japan

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.5/WP.2](#) - Further strengthen the Convention and its functioning - Submitted by Cuba

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.5/WP.3](#) - Institutional Strengthening of the BWC - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/MX.5/WP.4](#) - Institutional Strengthening of the Convention - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

2019 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.5/WP.1](#) - Institutional strengthening of the Convention: Reflections on the 2001 Protocol and the verification challenge - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.5/WP.2](#) - Utilizing the Convention's Tools to Strengthen its Institutional Functions - Submitted by the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.5/WP.3](#) - International conference "Global biosecurity challenges. Problems and solutions", Sochi, 20-21 June 2019 – Submitted by the Russian Federation [unofficial English translation in annex]

[BWC/MSP/2019/MX.5/WP.4](#) - Institutional Strengthening of the Convention - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC

2020 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/WP.1](#) - Review conferences, decision making and future institutional strengthening of the Convention-Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/WP.2](#) - Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Proposal for the BWC Article VI Implementation - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/WP.3](#) - Proposal for inclusion in the final document of the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/WP.4](#) - Concept note on the creation of an International Agency for Biological Safety (IABS) - Submitted by Kazakhstan

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/WP.5](#) - III International research and practical Conference "Global Biosecurity Challenges. Problems and Solutions" (Sochi, 24-25 June 2021) - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/WP.5/Corr.1](#) - III International research and practical Conference "Global Biosecurity Challenges. Problems and Solutions" (Sochi, 24-25 June 2021) - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/MX.5/WP.6](#) - Enhancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as an Integral Part of the Institutional Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) - Submitted by Panama

Meetings of States Parties

2017 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.1](#) - Peer Review Exercise on the National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (Morocco 9-11 May 2017) - Submitted by Morocco

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.2](#) - Need to establish a BWC science and technology review process - Submitted by Switzerland

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.3](#) - Strengthening the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention through a reinforced intersessional work programme - Submitted by the members of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.4](#) - Peer Review in the BWC Context. Working with Colleagues to Strengthen the Convention: Possible roles for a BWC Peer Review as a Transparency and Confidence-Building Measure - Submitted by Germany

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.5](#) - Efforts of Kyrgyzstan in implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by Kyrgyzstan

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.6](#) - Confidence Building Measure G - Declaration of Vaccine Production Facilities: Potential for Missed Reporting of Relevant Facilities - Submitted by the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.7](#) - Report on Implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.8](#) - Intersessional Programme - Submitted by Cuba

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.9](#) - The Mantra of Confidence Building: Proposal for the 2018 2020 Intersessional Process - Submitted by Germany, Japan and the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.10](#) - Elements of a Possible Intersessional Process - Submitted by Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.11](#) - Biopreparedness field training exercises: national and international capacity-building - Submitted by Portugal

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.12](#) - Institutional Mechanism for International Cooperation and Compliance with Article X – Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.13](#) – Visitas Voluntarias: Un instrumento para una mejor cooperación en el marco de la CABT - Presentado por Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, España, Guatemala, México, República Dominicana, Panamá, Paraguay y Perú

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.13/Corr.1](#) – Visitas Voluntarias: Un instrumento para una mejor cooperación en el marco de la CABT - Presentado por Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, España, Guatemala, México, República Dominicana, Panamá, Paraguay y Perú

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.14](#) - Step-by-Step Approach to CBM Participation - Submitted by Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Switzerland

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.15](#) - Strengthening cooperation with international organizations - Submitted by Australia, Japan, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.17](#) - International activities of Global Partnership Member Countries related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by: Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.16](#) - Analyse des risques et menaces biologiques – Soumis par la France

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.18](#) - The European Union's continued support for strengthening the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the European Union

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.19](#) - Implementation of Articles IV and X of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Republic of Korea

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.20](#) - Responding to deliberate biological release: the requirements for effective, coordinated international action - Submitted by Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.21](#) - Intersessional Programme - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.22](#) - Awareness-raising, education and outreach: recent developments - Submitted by Ukraine, Japan, UK

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.22/Corr.1](#) - Awareness-raising, education and outreach: recent developments - Submitted by Ukraine, Japan, UK

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.23](#) - Dificultades y obstáculos que enfrenta Cuba para la plena aplicación del Artículo X de la Convención sobre Armas Biológicas - Presentado por Cuba

[BWC/MSP/2017/WP.24](#) - Submitted by Malaysia and the United States of America - Report on BWC relevant developments by International Expert

2018 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.1](#) - Strengthening implementation of Article III of the BTWC - Submitted by India and the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.2](#) - Article X reports: Australia's approach to structure and content - Submitted by Australia

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.3](#) - Dificultades y obstáculos que enfrenta Cuba para la plena aplicación del Artículo X de la Convención sobre Armas Biológicas - Submitted by Cuba (unofficial English translation contained in the annex)

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.4](#) - Approach to Strengthening Measures for Emerging Infectious Diseases based on Lessons Learned from the Ebola Outbreak - Submitted by Japan

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.5](#) - Building Confidence through Transparency: Peer Review Transparency Visit at the Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health in Tbilisi, Georgia - Submitted by Georgia and Germany, co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Columbia, Iraq, Hungary, Malaysia, Mali, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.5/Corr.1](#) - Submitted by Georgia and Germany, co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Iraq, Malaysia, Mali, Montenegro, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.6](#) - Core Elements for an Effective Article VII Response - Submitted by the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (unofficial Russian translation contained in the annex)

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.7](#) - Proposal for establishment of a database for assistance in the framework of Article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by France and India

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.8](#) - Report of the Regional Workshop for Central Asian States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention on scientific and practical implementation issues (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 23-24 October 2018) - Submitted by Kazakhstan, co-sponsored by Germany

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.9](#) - International Activities of Global Partnership Member Countries related to Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by Canada, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.10](#) - A new initiative to promote voluntary transparency and confidence building measures - Submitted by France

[BWC/MSP/2018/WP.11](#) - Transparency visit to the Lugar Center, Georgia: An Independent Report – Submitted by Georgia

2019 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2019/WP.1](#) - Dificultades y obstáculos que enfrenta Cuba para la plena aplicación del Artículo X de la Convención sobre Armas Biológicas - Presentado por Cuba [Unofficial English translation - [Difficulties and obstacles faced by Cuba for the full implementation of Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention](#)]

[BWC/MSP/2019/WP.2](#) - Fortalecimiento Institucional de la Convención de Armas Biológicas - Presentado por Cuba [Unofficial English translation - [Institutional Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention](#)]

[BWC/MSP/2019/WP.3](#) - Report on Germany's Implementation of Article X with a special focus on the "German Biosecurity Programme" - Submitted by Germany

[BWC/MSP/2019/WP.4](#) - Investigating alleged use of biological agents against agriculture, livestock and the natural environment: A practical approach - Submitted by Portugal

[BWC/MSP/2019/WP.5](#) - Implementation of Articles IV and X of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Republic of Korea

2020 Working papers

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.1](#) - Proposal to enhance the format of confidence-building measures under the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.2](#) - Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Proposal for the BWC Article VI Implementation - Submitted by the Russian Federation

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.3](#) - Proposal for the establishment of a database for assistance under Article VII of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by France and India

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.4](#) - An exchange Platform for voluntary transparency exercises: terms of reference - Submitted by Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands and Spain

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.5](#) - Proposal for establishment of an international platform dedicated to biosecurity and biosafety: SecBio - Submitted by France

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.6](#) - Enhancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as an Integral Part of the Institutional Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.7](#) - The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists - Submitted by China and Pakistan, Co-sponsored by Brazil

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.8](#) - Implementation of Articles IV and X of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the Republic of Korea

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.9](#) - Report on Implementation of 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/MSP/2020/WP.10](#) - Difficulties and obstacles faced by Cuba for the full implementation of Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by Cuba

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.11](#) - Article X Cooperation and Laboratory Support: The Example of the Biological Threat Reduction Program - Submitted by the United States of the America

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.12](#) - Current Trends and their Implications to the Biological Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of the America

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.13](#) - Progress on Dissemination of the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists - Submitted by China and Pakistan

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.14](#) - Nomination for the Presidency of the Ninth BWC Review Conference - Submitted by India

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.15](#) - Concept note and chart produced by the Chairperson of the 2020 Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention - Submitted by Japan

[BWC/MSP/2020/WP.16](#) - Proposals to the BWC MSP 2020 Draft Final Report - Submitted by the Russian Federation

Annex II

[English only]

Gender distribution at BWC meetings from 2017 to 2020

The charts below shows that participation by gender in BWC meetings is not equal, as more men are represented than women, for both the Meetings of States Parties, as well as the Meetings of Experts.

The data below are based on registrations in the online Indico system, and include the following categories of participants: States Parties, Signatory States, States not party, and experts from international organizations, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations.

Figure I

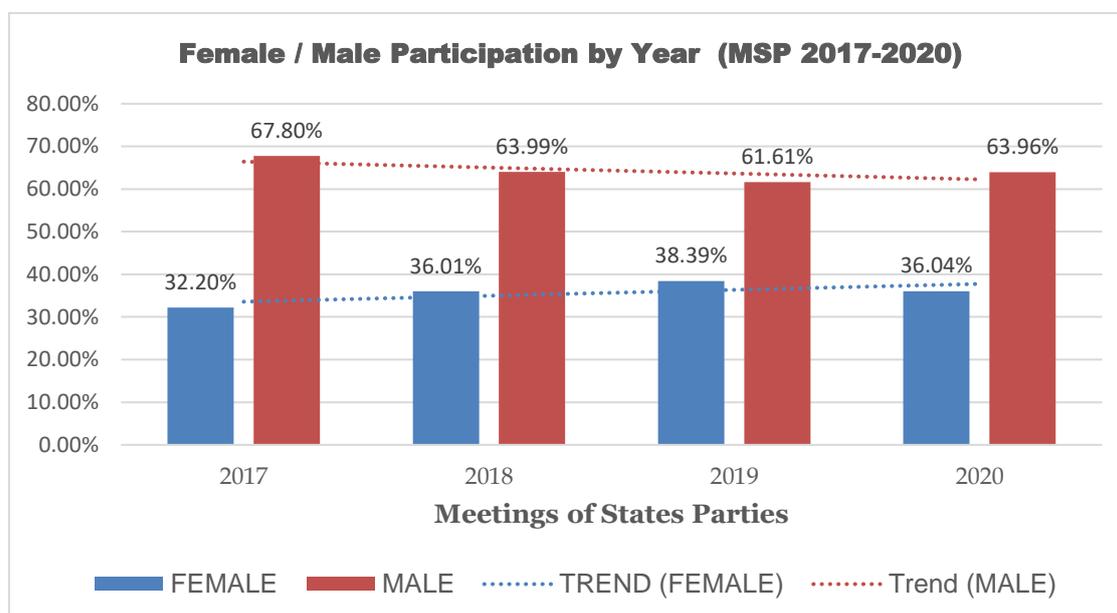


Figure II

