

**Formal Consultative 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**

Distr.: General
7 September 2022

Original: English
English and Russian only

2022 Meeting

Geneva, 26 August and 5-9 September 2022

Item 6 of the agenda

**Respective outstanding questions by the Russian Federation
to the United States and to Ukraine concerning the fulfilment
of their respective obligations under the Convention in the context
of the operation of biological laboratories in Ukraine**

**Questions to Ukraine and the United States in
connection with the information provided in the
framework of the confidence-building measures of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their
Destruction (BTWC) in the context of the activities of
biological laboratories on Ukrainian territory**

Submitted by the Russian Federation

1. Confidence-building measures are an integral part of the international security and stability system and of the prevention of risks associated with the proliferation of biological threats. Their main purpose is to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions among the BTWC States Parties and to improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities.
2. In accordance with the decision of the Second BTWC Review Conference, States Parties voluntarily submit annual declarations on the implementation of the Convention. The relevant reporting forms have been approved and have been in effect since the Third Review Conference in 1991.
3. Since that time, it has been agreed that States Parties, in the interest of increasing the transparency of national biological defense research and development programs, should provide details of such programs, including those undertaken by contractors, on an annual basis. In the event that no such projects are implemented, a null report shall be submitted.
4. Analysis of Ukraine's Form "A" reporting received under Confidence-Building Measures for the period from 2015 to 2020 shows the following:
 - Part 2 (Information Exchange on National Biodefense Research and Development Programs): "There are no national biological defense research and development programs in Ukraine".
 - Part 2 (i) (Announcement of national biological defense research and development programs): "There are no research and development activities in the field of biological protection."



- Part 2 (ii) (National biological defense research and development programs): "Nothing to declare."

5. At the same time, projects of UP series (UP-2, UP-4, UP-6, etc., altogether 10 projects), implemented by the Defense Agency for Threat Reduction (DATR) of the US Military Department on the territory of Ukraine, have obvious attributes of research and development in the field of biological protection, as they are directed to study pathogens of especially dangerous and economically significant infections (anthrax, Congo-Crimean fever, leptospirosis etc.). This also applies in full measure to the projects funded through the Ukrainian Scientific and Technical Center (USTC), such as P-444, P-781, etc.

6. Declaring the absence of research and development in the field of biological protection, in Part 2 (iii) (National Research and Development Programs in the field of biological protection. Objects) of announcements for 2020 Ukraine, however, indicates the executor of such a program - the State Scientific-Control Institute of Biotechnology and Microbial Strains (30 Donetskaya St., Kiev, Ukraine). At the same time, the area of laboratory space by isolation level (BL2 - 731 sq.m.), does not correspond to the previously declared in Form A, part 1 (i) (Exchange of data on research centers and laboratories) values for this facility (BL2 - 1374.5 sq.m.).

7. In turn, in 2017, two new laboratories with a high level of biosafety, funded by the DTRA since 2015, but not previously specified in the confidence-building measures, appeared in Form A, part 1 (i) of the announcement of Ukraine. These are the Kharkiv Institute of Experimental and Clinical Veterinary Medicine with more than 1,000 square meters of laboratory space. According to the information provided by Ukraine, the laboratory collected, stored and maintained strains of economically significant animal diseases - highly pathogenic avian influenza, brucellosis, bovine leukosis. The Institute of Veterinary Medicine of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences in Kiev, which has laboratories with a total area of over 2400 square meters, is also included. The institute carries out work with strains of anthrax, leptospirosis, African swine fever.

8. A similar lack of clarity is present in other reporting forms. In particular, in Form B (Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar phenomena caused by toxins), Ukraine has provided information only for the past two years regarding veterinary infections: African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

9. For other infectious diseases of humans and animals (including abnormally high incidence of measles, tuberculosis, hepatitis) no information was provided. It is also noteworthy that such information was not submitted to WHO in the framework of implementation of international medical and sanitary rules.

10. As for Form F (Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programs), in the announcement for 2020. Kyiv declares: "The Government of Ukraine has not conducted and does not conduct any offensive and/or defensive activities within the framework of bacteriological and biological research and development programs. The Government of Ukraine has no information about such activities of the former USSR on the territory of Ukraine since January 1, 1946. There is nothing to declare".

11. This contradicts a number of fundamental documents of the Ukrainian Scientific and Technical Center, declaring that activities in Ukraine are aimed at "...prevention of dissemination of knowledge and experience related to technologies of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons...".

12. Besides, this does not correlate with the statements of US officials, in particular, with the statement of the US delegation at the OSCE meeting on May 20, 2022. In the speech it was noted that the US and Ukrainian cooperation is aimed at "...reduction of biological and veterinary danger and also at securing the illegal stock of biological weapons, left after the USSR...".

13. Such reporting by Kiev raises a lot of questions and gives reasonable cause for suspicion that information on military-biological activities on Ukrainian territory was not fully provided.

14. In the US national reporting provided annually as part of the BWC confidence-building measures, there is no information on the programs and projects conducted (including those under the Pentagon) outside the national territory and their funding. Our repeated appeals to the U.S. side to provide comprehensive explanations of such activities go unanswered.

15. Moreover, the United States has consistently blocked the initiative put forward by Russia in 2016 to modernize the BTWC's confidence-building measures by providing participating States with information on military and biological activities outside the national territory.

16. This reticence and U.S. disregard for Russian claims only confirms their validity.
