

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

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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

Poland's Statement at the Formal Consultative Meeting pursuant to Article V of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

Submitted by Poland

1. Poland fully aligns to the statement presented on behalf of the European Union.
2. Let me state the obvious: the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) prohibits the development, production, storage and use of biological weapons and is one of the most important disarmament agreements. As such it should never be undermined by irresponsible actions tormenting international security and stability.
3. Poland reaffirms its unequivocal support for the BTWC as the legally binding global norm against biological weapons and cornerstone of international efforts to prevent biological agents or toxins from ever being developed, produced, stockpiled or otherwise acquired and used as weapons. Absolute compliance with its provisions is crucial to international peace and security.
4. In accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Convention, the States Parties to the Convention consult and cooperate with each other in resolving any problems that may arise with respect to the purpose of or in connection with its implementation. The provisions of Article V of the BTWC give states the right to hold international consultations when problems arise from the settlement by the States Parties to the Convention. However, this right must not be abused. Any state implying that any other State Party to the Convention is acting in violation of its obligations under the Convention should provide credible evidence of the validity of its claims. Using false allegations and disinformation regarding the alleged development and possible use of biological weapons in order to excuse unjustifiable and unlawful Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is unacceptable. These disinformation efforts are deeply cynical and serve only to harm international peace and security.
5. Both Ukraine and the U.S. have provided detailed and comprehensive responses to the allegations against them. Poland appreciate the United States and Ukraine taking its BWC obligations seriously and participating fully and constructively in the formal consultative meeting. The revision of comprehensive written materials submitted previously and this week's presentations leads to conclusion that the activities in question are fully consistent with the peaceful uses of biology as envisioned under the BWC.
6. Please note that Article X not only authorizes States Parties to engage in international cooperation and assistance, but actually encourages and even obliges them to do so where



they can. The international cooperation on surveillance on pathogens such as anthrax, cholera or HIV should not be put in question for particular reasons. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted its importance and the power of open, transparent, and responsible scientific cooperation and collaboration, such as that undertaken by the United States and Ukraine.

7. This negative effect of Russia's disinformation and false allegations comes at a time when the world needs to intensify cooperation on public health to end the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigate current outbreaks, and prevent future ones.

8. We request that the Russian Federation cease its efforts to impede or malign the cooperative activities in which it once participated and from which it once benefited.

9. Consultations organized under Article V should be conducted in accordance with the spirit of the BTWC Convention - jointly, constructively and in good faith.

10. I request that this statement be included as an Official Document of this Article V meeting, and it be posted by the Implementation Support Unit on the UN Geneva public website.
