

**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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**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**

**National Statement by Portugal to the Formal  
Consultative Meeting of States Parties to the  
Biological Weapons Convention**

**Submitted by Portugal**

Mr. Chairman,

1. Allow me to begin by assuring you, Ambassador Molnar, of the full support of my delegation in your role as the Chair of these Article V consultations.
2. Portugal aligns with the Statement of the European Union reaffirming its unequivocal support for the BWC 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.
3. In our national capacity we would like to point out the following aspects:
  - During this meeting, the distinguished delegations of Ukraine and United States of America made presentations regarding cooperation activities and projects focused on assistance and capacity building such as workforce development, training, and infrastructure and equipment upgrading, aiming to build capacities for enhanced disease surveillance, improvement of biosafety and biosecurity, and the strengthening of global health security, framed in the wide scope of “one health” paradigm, taking in consideration of public and animal health as an integrated approach.
  - We consider that the activities and projects, publicly available and presented by the distinguished delegations of Ukraine and the United States of America are consistent with the compliance of the BWC, and especially in the context of the provisions of the Article X of the BWC, regarding the international cooperation and assistance, noting 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.
  - We therefore, would like to emphasize the importance of the international cooperation and assistance activities within the scope of Article X of the BWC, highlighting its importance to the efforts for strengthening the BWC and its universalization, and also for the mutual reinforcement mechanisms, such as the International Health Regulations, in the improvement of global health



security, as demonstrated by the importance of the international cooperative efforts in the context of COVID19 pandemic.

4. Taking these considerations, we can hopefully move on and focus on ensuring a successful Review Conference in the current year.
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