

**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**

26 November 2021

English only

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**2020 Meeting**

**Geneva, 22-25 November 2021**

Item 10 of the agenda

**Arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and  
its Preparatory Committee in 2021 and 2022**

**Nomination for the Presidency of the Ninth BWC  
Review Conference**

**Submitted by India**

India wishes to transmit to States Parties the attached notes verbale dated 15 January 2021, 5 July 2021, 7 July 2021, 22 November 2021 and a Letter from the Permanent Representative of India dated 23 November 2021 in relation to Agenda Item 10 on Arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee in 2021 and 2022.





**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**  
9 Rue du Valais, 1202 Geneva  
Tel: 00-41-22-906 8677  
Fax: 00-41-22-906 8670  
E-mail: [fsd.geneva@mea.gov.in](mailto:fsd.geneva@mea.gov.in)

GEN/PMI/254/38/2021

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, in its capacity of the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement's Geneva Chapter and has the honour to refer to its Note Verbale Ref. NAM/001/21/22 dated 7 January 2021 seeking nominations for a candidate to serve as Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee and subsequently as Chairperson of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC.

In response to the above Note Verbale, the Government of India seeks clarification regarding the scheduled dates of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC, in order to consider the matter of nomination of Chairperson of the Ninth Review Conference. The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, shall therefore be grateful, if the scheduled dates of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC could be informed, to enable the Government of India to consider this matter further.

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva requests the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, in its capacity of the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement's Geneva Chapter to extend the deadline for submission of nominations for the Chairperson of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC, till such time the scheduled dates of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC are decided and announced.

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva reiterates assurances of its highest consideration to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, in its capacity of the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement's Geneva Chapter.

**The Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and  
other International Organizations, Geneva  
and Chair, Non-Aligned Movement,  
Geneva Chapter**



January 15, 2021



**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

9 Rue du Valais, 1202 Geneva

Tel: 00-41-22-906 8677

Fax: 00-41-22-906 8670

E-mail: [facd.geneva@mea.gov.in](mailto:facd.geneva@mea.gov.in)

GEN/PMI/254/38/2021

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale NAM/187/21/22 dated 02 July 2021 circulated by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva in its capacity as the current Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement Geneva Chapter conveying its decision to put the candidacy for the post of the President of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC under silence procedure.

In this context, the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament would like to recall that the Republic of Philippines had also submitted the nomination of H.E. Ms. Maria Teresa T. Almojuela, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva for the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC. However, the Note Verbale in reference (NAM/187/21/22 dated 2 July 2021) did not indicate as to why the nomination submitted by the Republic of the Philippines was put aside. Furthermore, it has not been explained in the Note Verbale as to why the Republic of Philippines has been excluded from the decision making process by calling it ineligible to participate in the silence procedure.

India appreciates efforts made by the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter in the context of nominations for the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC. However, apart from the informative meeting convened by the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter on 2 July 2021, where the NAM Member States were only presented with a fait accompli that either they go along with the Chair's nomination or NAM will hand over the Ninth Review Conference Presidency to other interested regional group, no formal meeting of the NAM had been convened to consult the Member States and take a decision on finalising the nomination. As a result a number of NAM Member States, including India, had been deprived from expressing their views regarding the nomination.

Therefore, this Mission conveys its regret that it cannot agree with the course of action proposed by the Chair of the NAM Chapter in Geneva vide its Note Verbale No. NAM/187/21/22 dated 02 July 2021.

It is important to underline that this is an important opportunity which only presents itself once in fifteen years and, therefore, it would be important for the NAM to seize the opportunity to hold the Presidency of the Ninth BWC Review Conference. Without undertaking exhaustive consultations with all NAM Member States, it will be premature to reach any conclusion on the nomination.

In India's view, both candidatures merit serious consideration by the NAM Member States. Therefore, India recommends that the Chair kindly seek the views of all NAM Member States on both the nominations. In case, NAM Member States are unable to reach a consensus on a single candidate, the NAM should convey both nominations to the current Chair of the MSP for further consideration in accordance with Rule 5, Rules 31, 32 and 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the Review Conference of the BWC. This would also ensure that the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC is retained by the NAM, as per the principle of rotation and past practice.

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of its highest consideration to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva.

Geneva, July 05, 2021



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations  
Geneva, Switzerland.**

**Copy to:**

**Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions  
to the UN Office and other International Organizations  
of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement  
which are Signatories to the BWC and other States Parties to the BWC  
Geneva**





**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA  
TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

9 Rue du Valais, 1202 Geneva

Tel: 00-41-22-906 8677

Fax: 00-41-22-906 8670

E-mail: [fscd.geneva@mea.gov.in](mailto:fscd.geneva@mea.gov.in)

GEN/PMI/254/38/2021-03

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale NAM/190/21/22 dated 07 July 2021 circulated by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva in its capacity as the current Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement Geneva Chapter conveying its decision to communicate the candidacy of H.E. Amb Khalil Hashmi for the post of the President of the Ninth BWC Review Conference to H.E. Amb Cleopa K. Mailu, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the 2020 BWC Meeting of the States Parties, as well as to the BWC Implementation Support Unit.

In this context, the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament would like to recall its Note Verbale No. GEN/PMI/254/38/2021 dated 5 July 2021 sent vide email at 15:21 hrs. to the Chair of NAM Geneva Chapter and copied to all the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the UN Office and other International Organizations of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement which are Signatories to the BWC and other States Parties to the BWC. Vide this Note Verbale India had broken the silence procedure by unambiguously conveying in Paragraph-4 which reads, "Therefore, this Mission conveys its regret that it cannot agree with the course of action proposed by the Chair of the NAM Chapter in Geneva vide its Note Verbale No. NAM/187/21/22 dated 2 July 2021". (Copy attached for ready reference.)

This Mission has just seen another Note Verbale No. NAM/191/22 dated 7 July 2021 sent by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva in its capacity as the current Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement Geneva Chapter and addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Chair of the 2020 BWC Meeting of State Parties with a copy to BWC Implementation Support Unit and also copied to Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the UN Office and other International Organizations of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement which are Signatories to the BWC and other States Parties to the BWC.

This Mission is surprised to see that the nomination for the Presidency of the Ninth BWC Review Conference has been conveyed to the Chair of the 2020 BWC Meeting of States Parties despite India having broken the silence procedure, well within the timelines stipulated by the Chair of NAM Geneva Chapter.

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This Mission would like to convey that the communication No. NAM/191/21/22 dated 7 July 2021 by the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter does not enjoy consensus of the NAM Member States. This Mission, therefore, **disagrees** and **objects** to the aforesaid communication (No. NAM/191/21/22 dated 7 July 2021) by the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter.

This Mission shall request that this Note Verbale be taken on record and circulated by the BWC Implementation Support Unit to the States Parties and Signatory States to the BWC.

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of its highest consideration to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva.

Geneva, July 07, 2021

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations  
Geneva, Switzerland.**

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the UN Office  
and other International Organizations in Geneva-  
Chair of the 2020 BWC Meeting of State Parties**

**BWC Implementation Support Unit  
(bwc@un.org)**



**Copy to:**

**Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions  
to the UN Office and other International Organizations  
of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement  
which are Signatories to the BWC and other States Parties to the BWC  
Geneva**

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No.GEN/PMI/254/38/2021

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale NAM/282/21/22 dated 19 November 2021 by the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva in its capacity as the current Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement Geneva Chapter conveying that the silence procedure established by their Note Verbale NAM/281/21/22 dated 18 November 2021 has concluded with objections received from two NAM Member States to hand over the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC to other regional group and that the Chair stands ready to continue consultations with the interested delegations to make a final effort to reach a consensus decision on the matter of the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.

In this context, the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament wishes to convey that in view of the importance that India attaches to the BWC as well as its membership of NAM, it is an interested delegation on the issue related to the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC and would like to participate in consultations to be convened by the Chair to make a final effort to reach a consensus decision on the matter of the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, and shall be grateful it could be invited to any consultations that are convened in this regard.

The Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of its highest consideration to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva.



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations  
Geneva, Switzerland.**

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Geneva**





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9 Rue du Valais, 1202 Geneva

Tel: 00-41-22-906 8677

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GEN/PMI/254/38/2021

23 November 2021

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the letter No. NAM/288/21/22 dated 23 November 2021 sent by Ambassador Galib Israfilov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva in his capacity as the current Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement addressed to you in your capacity as the Chair of the 2020 BWC Meeting of State Parties.

In this context, I would like to refer to the earlier Note Verbales sent by the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament No. GEN/PMI/254/38/2021-03 dated July 7, 2021, addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva with a copy to you as well as the BWC ISU conveying that this Mission had disagreed and objected to the nomination for the Presidency of the Ninth BWC Conference as conveyed by the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement to you vide his Note Verbale NAM/190/21/22 dated 7 July 2021. This was due to the fact that India had broken the silence procedure, within the stipulated time period provided for breaking the silence procedure, vide its Note Verbale No. GEN/PMI/254/38/2021 dated 5 July 2021 sent vide email at 15:21 hrs. to the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter with copy to all the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Missions to the UN Office and other International Organizations of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement which are signatories to the BWC and other States Parties to the BWC. Vide this Note Verbale India had broken the silence procedure by unambiguously conveying in Paragraph-4 which reads, "Therefore, this Mission conveys its regret that it cannot agree with the course of action proposed by the Chair of the NAM Chapter in Geneva vide its Note Verbale No. NAM/197/21/22/ dated 2 July 2021".

Subsequently, in response to another Note Verbale NAM/282/21/22 dated 19 November 2021 by the Chair of the NAM Chapter in Geneva, India had sent a Note Verbale No. GEN/PMI/254/38/2021 dated 22 November 2021, expressing interest as an interested delegation on the issue related to the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC and its wish to participate in consultations to be convened by the Chair to make a final effort to reach a consensus decision on the matter of the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference and requested the Chair to invite India to any consultations that are convened in this regard.

We are, therefore, surprised to note that the Letter No. NAM/288/21/22 dated 23 November 2021 by the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter states at paragraph-3 that "In the meantime, NAM broad



membership and its Chairmanship realize that two NAM Member States registered objections with the Chairperson of the 2020 BWC Meeting of States Parties to the NAM nomination. The NAM Chairmanship regrets that these objections have not been presented in due time within the timeframe established in the NAM in line with the established practice but communicated directly to the Chairperson of the 2020 BWC Meeting of States Parties". The facts speak otherwise. The objection conveyed by India was addressed directly to the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter vide Note Verbale No. GEN/PMI/254/38/2021-03 dated July 07, 2021 as also referred above. Therefore, India maintains that the nomination as conveyed by the Chair of the NAM Geneva Chapter is not valid and India is not in a position to support such a nomination which has not followed the established multilateral practice and norms.

Copies of the Note Verbales sent by India referred above can be made available on request to any delegation.

India stands ready to work with you in your capacity as the Chairperson of the 2020 BWC Meeting of States Parties as well as all Member States of the BWC to resolve the issue of the Presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC and looks forward to constructively participating in all discussions on this matter so as to ensure a successful outcome of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



**Ambassador Pankaj Sharma**  
Permanent Representative of India to  
the Conference on Disarmament

**H.E. Dr. Cleopa K. Mailu**  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya  
To the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva,  
Chair of the 2020 BWC Meeting of State Parties

**BWC Implementation Support Unit**  
(bwc@un.org)

**H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the UN  
Office and other International Organizations in Geneva  
Chair of the Geneva Chapter of the Non-Aligned Movement

**Copy to:**

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Geneva**