

**Seventh 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**

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Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference

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I. Organization and work of the Conference

A. Introduction

1. The Final Document of the Sixth 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 (BWC/CONF.VI/6), in paragraph 61 of the Final Declaration, contained the following decision:

“The Conference decides that the Seventh Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2011 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, *inter alia*:

- (i) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention;
- (ii) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the obligations under the Convention;
- (iii) progress of the implementation of the decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Sixth Review Conference”.

2. By resolution 65/92, adopted without a vote on 8 December 2010, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, noted the proposal to hold the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Seventh Review Conference in April 2011 and to hold the Seventh Review Conference in Geneva in December 2011 and requested the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Seventh Review Conference and the preparations for it.

3. The Preparatory Committee was held at Geneva from 13 to 14 April 2011. The following 93 States Parties to the Convention participated in the Preparatory Committee: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

4. At its first meeting, on 13 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation Ambassador Paul van den IJssel (Netherlands) as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. At the same meeting, it also unanimously elected Ambassador Desra Percaya (Indonesia) and Ms. Judit Körömi (Hungary) as Vice-Chairmen of the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee authorized the Bureau to handle technical and other matters in the period before the Review Conference was convened.

5. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Jarmo Sareva, Director of the Geneva Branch, Office for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Richard Lennane, Head of the Implementation Support Unit, served as

Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Piers Millett, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh, Associate Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, and Mr. Joshua Childress served in the Secretariat.

6. The Preparatory Committee decided to take its decisions by consensus.
7. The Preparatory Committee decided to use Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages.
8. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of their written requests, decided to invite the representatives of three signatories to the Convention, Egypt, Haiti and Myanmar, to participate in its discussions without the right to take part in the making of decisions.
9. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of a written request and in accordance with the draft rule 44, paragraph 2, decided to invite the representative of one state neither party nor signatory to the Convention, Israel, to participate as an Observer.
10. In the course of its session, the Preparatory Committee considered the following questions relating to the organization of the Review Conference:
 - (a) Date and duration;
 - (b) Provisional agenda;
 - (c) Draft rules of procedure;
 - (d) Background documentation;
 - (e) Publicity;
 - (f) Final document(s);
 - (g) Appointment of a provisional Secretary-General;
 - (h) Financial arrangements for the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.
11. At its last meeting, on 14 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee adopted its report, which was issued as a pre-session document of the Conference (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2). The report contained, *inter alia*, the provisional agenda and the draft rules of procedure for the Conference (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2, Annexes I and II, respectively).
12. Pursuant to the request of the Preparatory Committee, the following background documents were prepared by the Implementation Support Unit and issued as pre-session documents for the Conference:
 - (a) A background information document on the history and operation of the confidence-building measures agreed at the Second Review Conference and revised at the Third Review Conference. The document included data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the measures since the last Review Conference;
 - (b) A background information document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention, compiled from information submitted by States Parties;
 - (c) A background information document on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, compiled from information submitted by States Parties as well as from information provided by relevant international organisations;
 - (d) A background information document on developments since the last Review Conference in other international organizations which may be relevant to the Convention;

(e) A background information document showing the additional understandings and agreements reached by previous Review Conferences relating to each article of the Convention, extracted from the respective Final Declarations of these conferences;

(f) A background information document showing the common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2007 to 2010;

(g) A background information document on the status of universalization of the Convention;

(h) A background information document on the implementation of Article X, compiled from information submitted by States Parties, including information submitted pursuant to paragraph 54 of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Review Conference.

B. Organization of the Conference

13. In accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 5 to 22 December 2011.

14. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Jarmo Sareva, Director of the Geneva Branch, Office for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Conference.

15. At its first meeting, on 5 December, the Conference elected by acclamation Ambassador Paul van den IJssel (Netherlands) as President.

16. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, addressed the Conference via a video message.

17. The Conference adopted its agenda as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VII/1). The agenda as adopted is attached as Annex I to this Final Document.

18. The Conference took note with appreciation of the report of the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2).

19. The Conference adopted its Rules of Procedure as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2, Annex II). The Rules as adopted are attached as Annex II of this Final Document. The Rules of Procedure provided, *inter alia*, for:

(a) a General Committee, chaired by the President of the Conference, and composed of the President, the 20 Vice-Presidents, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Drafting Committee, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Credentials Committee, the three Regional Group Coordinators and the Depositaries (see paragraph 22 of the report of the Preparatory Committee);

(b) a Committee of the Whole;

(c) a Drafting Committee; and

(d) a Credentials Committee composed of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected by the Conference, and five other members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President.

20. The Conference elected by acclamation 20 Vice-Presidents from the following States Parties: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa. It also elected by acclamation the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee, as follows:

Committee of the Whole

Chairman: Ambassador Desra Percaya (Indonesia)

Vice-Chairman: Ambassador Gancho Ganev (Bulgaria)

Vice-Chairman: Ambassador Eric Danon (France)

Drafting Committee

Chairman: Ms. Judit Körömi (Hungary)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. John Walker (United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. U. L. M. Jauhar (Sri Lanka)

Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Mário Duarte (Portugal)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Vipul (India)

The Conference also appointed the following five States Parties as members of the Credentials Committee: Colombia, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia and Serbia.

21. The Conference confirmed the nomination of Mr. Richard Lennane, Head of the Implementation Support Unit, as Secretary-General of the Conference. The nomination had been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations following an invitation by the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Piers Millett, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Conference. Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh, Associate Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, Mr. Kevin Ching and Ms. Monica Loveley served in the Secretariat.

C. Participation at the Conference

22. One hundred and three States Parties to the Convention participated in the Conference as follows: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

23. In addition, five states that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Conference without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Haiti, Myanmar and the United Republic of Tanzania.

24. Two states, Cameroon and Israel, neither parties nor signatories to the Convention, were granted Observer status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a).
25. The United Nations, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), attended the Conference in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.
26. The African Union, the European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) were granted Observer Agency status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.
27. Forty-seven non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Conference under rule 44, paragraph 5.

D. Work of the Conference

28. The Conference held nine plenary meetings between 5 and 22 December 2011.
29. At its first plenary meeting, on 5 December, the Conference adopted its indicative programme of work, as set out in BWC/CONF.VII/2.
30. The Conference held a general debate, in which 54 States Parties, one signatory, the European Union, the ICRC, INTERPOL, NATO, OIE, OPCW, UNICRI and WHO made statements.
31. The Committee of the Whole held 10 meetings between 7 and 16 December, during which it reviewed the provisions of the Convention, article by article. The Committee also examined agenda items 11 and 12. The Committee submitted its report (BWC/CONF.VII/5) to the Conference at the eighth plenary meeting, on 16 December. The Conference took note of the report.
32. Following the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole, the President conducted a series of informal consultations, and was assisted in his work by Facilitators in the following areas:
- Solemn Declaration: Ambassador Alexandre Fasel (Switzerland)
 - Articles I-XV: Ms. Judit Körömi (Hungary) and Mr. Daniel Simanjuntak (Indonesia)
 - Science and technology: Mr. Zahid Rastam (Malaysia)
 - Assistance and cooperation: Mr. Jesus Domingo (Philippines)
 - Confidence-building measures (CBMs): Mr. Paul Wilson (Australia)
 - Intersessional programme: Ambassador Jo Adamson (United Kingdom) and Mr. Ben Steyn (South Africa)
33. The Drafting Committee held no formal meetings. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee met, and decided to assist the President with his informal consultations.
34. The Credentials Committee held three meetings. At its third and final meeting on 21 December, the Credentials Committee adopted its report (BWC/CONF.VII/6). The Conference took note of the report.

E. Documentation

35. A list of documents of the Conference is contained in Annex IV of this Final Document. All documents on this list are available on the Implementation Support Unit website at <http://www.unog.ch/bwc> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

F. Conclusion of the Conference

36. At its ninth and final plenary meeting, on 22 December, the Conference decided that the 2012 Meeting of Experts would be held in Geneva from 16 to 20 July 2012 and that the 2012 Meeting of States Parties would be held in Geneva from 10 to 14 December 2012. The Conference approved the nomination by the Group of the Non-aligned Movement and Other States of Ambassador Idriss Jazairi (Algeria) as Chairman of the 2012 meetings.

37. At the same meeting the Conference adopted by consensus its Final Document, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VII/CRP.2, as orally amended, comprising three parts and four annexes, as follows:

- Part I: Organization and work of the Conference
- Part II: Final Declaration
- Part III: Decisions and recommendations
- Annex I: Revised forms for the submission of the Confidence-Building Measures
- Annex II: Agenda of the Conference
- Annex III: Rules of Procedure of the Conference
- Annex IV: List of documents of the Conference

II. Final Declaration

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, which met in Geneva from 5 December to 22 December 2011 to review the operation of the Convention, solemnly declare:

(i) Their conviction that the Convention is essential for international peace and security;

(ii) Their determination also to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and their conviction that the prohibitions of the Convention will facilitate the achievement of this goal;

(iii) Their reaffirmation of their understanding that the Convention forms a composite whole, as well as of their firm commitment to the purposes of the Preamble and all the provisions of the Convention;

(iv) Their determination to comply with all their obligations undertaken pursuant to the Convention and their recognition that States Parties not in compliance with their Convention obligations pose fundamental challenges to the Convention's viability, as would the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons by anyone at any time;

(v) Their continued determination, for the sake of humankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, and their conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind;

(vi) Their reaffirmation that under any circumstances the use, development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons is effectively prohibited under Article I of the Convention;

(vii) Their conviction that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and whatever its motivation, is abhorrent and unacceptable to the international community, and that terrorists must be prevented from developing, producing, stockpiling, or otherwise acquiring or retaining, and using under any circumstances, biological agents and toxins, equipment, or means of delivery of agents or toxins, for non-peaceful purposes, and their recognition of the contribution of the full and effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/288, and other relevant United Nations resolutions;

(viii) Their reiteration that the effective contribution of the Convention to international peace and security will be enhanced through universal adherence to the Convention, and their call on signatories to ratify and other States, not party, to accede to the Convention without further delay;

(ix) Their recognition that achieving the objectives of the Convention will be more effectively realized through greater public awareness of its contribution, and through collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, in keeping within their respective mandates, and their commitment to promote this;

(x) Their recognition of their consideration of the issues identified in reviewing the operation of the Convention as provided for in Article XII, as well as their consensus on the follow-up actions contained herein.

Article I

1. The Conference reaffirms the importance of Article I, as it defines the scope of the Convention. The Conference declares that the Convention is comprehensive in its scope and that all naturally or artificially created or altered microbial and other biological agents and toxins, as well as their components, regardless of their origin and method of production and whether they affect humans, animals or plants, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, are unequivocally covered by Article I.
2. The Conference reaffirms that Article I applies to all scientific and technological developments in the life sciences and in other fields of science relevant to the Convention and notes that the Conference has decided to include in the 2012-2015 intersessional programme a standing agenda item on review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention.
3. The Conference reaffirms that the use by the States Parties, in any way and under any circumstances of microbial or other biological agents or toxins, that is not consistent with prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, is effectively a violation of Article I. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking in Article I never in any circumstances to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain weapons, equipment, or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict in order to exclude completely and forever the possibility of their use. The Conference affirms the determination of States Parties to condemn any use of biological agents or toxins other than for peaceful purposes, by anyone at any time.
4. The Conference notes that experimentation involving open air release of pathogens or toxins harmful to humans, animals and plants that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes is inconsistent with the undertakings contained in Article I.

Article II

5. The Conference reaffirms for any state ratifying or acceding to the Convention, the destruction or diversion to peaceful purposes specified in Article II would be completed upon accession to, or upon ratification of, the Convention.
6. The Conference emphasises that states must take all necessary safety and security measures to protect human populations and the environment, including animals and plants, when carrying out such destruction and/or diversion. The Conference also stresses that these States Parties should provide appropriate information to all States Parties via the exchange of information (confidence-building measures form F).
7. The Conference welcomes statements made by States Parties, and newly acceding and ratifying States Parties, that they do not possess agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery as prohibited by Article I of the Convention.

Article III

8. The Conference reaffirms that Article III is sufficiently comprehensive to cover any recipient whatsoever at the international, national or sub-national levels.
9. The Conference calls for appropriate measures, including effective national export controls, by all States Parties to implement this Article, in order to ensure that direct and

indirect transfers relevant to the Convention, to any recipient whatsoever, are authorized only when the intended use is for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

10. The Conference reiterates that States Parties should not use the provisions of this Article to impose restrictions and/or limitations on transfers for purposes consistent with the objectives and provisions of the Convention of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials under Article X.

Article IV

11. The Conference reaffirms the commitment of States Parties to take the necessary national measures under this Article. The Conference also reaffirms that the enactment and implementation of necessary national measures under this Article, in accordance with their constitutional processes, would strengthen the effectiveness of the Convention. In this context, the Conference calls upon States Parties to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures, including penal legislation, designed to:

(a) enhance domestic implementation of the Convention and ensure the prohibition and prevention of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery as specified in Article I of the Convention;

(b) apply within their territory, under their jurisdiction or under their control anywhere and apply, if constitutionally possible and in conformity with international law, to actions taken anywhere by natural or legal persons possessing their nationality;

(c) ensure the safety and security of microbial or other biological agents or toxins in laboratories, facilities, and during transportation, to prevent unauthorized access to and removal of such agents or toxins.

12. The Conference welcomes those measures taken by States Parties in this regard, and reiterates its call to any State Party that has not yet taken any necessary measures, to do so without delay. The Conference encourages States Parties to provide appropriate information on any such measures they have taken, as well as any other useful information on their implementation to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

13. The Conference notes the value of national implementation measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the constitutional process of each State Party, to:

(a) implement voluntary management standards on biosafety and biosecurity;

(b) encourage the consideration of development of appropriate arrangements to promote awareness among relevant professionals in the private and public sectors and throughout relevant scientific and administrative activities and;

(c) promote amongst those working in the biological sciences awareness of the obligations of States Parties under the Convention, as well as relevant national legislation and guidelines;

(d) promote the development of training and education programmes for those granted access to biological agents and toxins relevant to the Convention and for those with the knowledge or capacity to modify such agents and toxins;

(e) encourage the promotion of a culture of responsibility amongst relevant national professionals and the voluntary development, adoption and promulgation of codes of conduct;

(f) strengthen methods and capacities for surveillance and detection of outbreaks of disease at the national, regional and international levels, noting that the International Health Regulations (2005) are important for building capacity to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease;

(g) prevent anyone from developing, producing, stockpiling, or otherwise acquiring or retaining, transporting or transferring and using under any circumstances, biological agents and toxins, equipment, or their means of delivery for non-peaceful purposes.

14. In this regard, the Conference welcomes assistance related to Article IV already provided and encourages those States Parties, in a position to do so, to provide assistance, upon request, to other States Parties.

15. The Conference further encourages States Parties, that have not yet done so, in accordance with the recommendation of the Sixth Review Conference, to designate a national focal point for coordinating national implementation of the Convention and communicating with other States Parties and relevant international organizations.

16. The Conference reaffirms that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons is effectively prohibited by the Convention.

17. The Conference recalls United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) that places obligations on all states and is consistent with the provisions of the Convention. The Conference notes that Resolution 1540 affirms support for the multilateral treaties whose aim is to eliminate or prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and the importance for all States Parties to these treaties to implement them fully in order to promote international stability. The Conference also notes that information provided to the United Nations by states in accordance with Resolution 1540 may provide a useful resource for States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under this Article.

Article V

18. The Conference reaffirms that:

(a) this article provides an appropriate framework for States Parties to consult and cooperate with one another to resolve any problem and to make any request for clarification, which may have arisen in relation to the objective of, or in the application of, the provisions of the Convention;

(b) any State Party which identifies such a problem should, as a rule, use this framework to address and resolve it;

(c) States Parties should provide a specific, timely response to any compliance concern alleging a breach of their obligations under the Convention.

19. The Conference reaffirms that the consultation procedures agreed at the Second and Third Review Conferences remain valid to be used by States Parties for consultation and cooperation pursuant to this Article. The Conference reaffirms that such consultation and cooperation may also be undertaken bilaterally and multilaterally, or through other appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter.

20. The Conference takes note of initiatives from States Parties to promote confidence-building under the Convention.

21. The Conference stresses the need for all States Parties to deal effectively with compliance issues. In this connection, the States Parties agreed to provide a specific, timely

response to any compliance concern alleging a breach of their obligations under the Convention. Such responses should be submitted in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the Second Review Conference and further developed by the Third Review Conference. The Conference reiterates its request that information on such efforts be provided to the Review Conferences.

22. The Conference emphasises the importance of the exchange of information among States Parties through the confidence-building measures (CBMs) agreed at the Second and Third Review Conferences. The Conference welcomes the exchange of information carried out under these measures and notes that this has contributed to enhancing transparency and building confidence.

23. The Conference recognises the urgent need to increase the number of States Parties participating in CBMs and calls upon all States Parties to participate annually. The Conference notes that since the Sixth Review Conference, there has only been a slight increase in the percentage of State Parties submitting their CBMs. The Conference emphasises the importance of increasing and continuing participation in the CBMs.

24. The Conference recognises the technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties in completing full and timely submissions. The Conference urges those States Parties, in a position to do so, to provide technical assistance and support, through training for instance, to those States Parties requesting it to assist them to complete their annual CBM submissions. The Conference notes the decision to update the CBM forms.

25. The Conference notes the desirability of making the CBMs more user-friendly and stresses the need to ensure that they provide relevant and appropriate information to States Parties.

26. The Conference recalls that the Third Review Conference agreed, “that the exchange of information and data, using the revised forms, be sent to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs no later than 15 April on an annual basis”. The Conference reaffirms that the data submitted in the framework of the annual exchange of information should be provided to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and promptly made available electronically by it to all States Parties according to the updated modalities and forms in Annex I. The Conference recalls that information supplied by a State Party must not be further circulated or made available without the express permission of that State Party. The Conference notes the fact that certain States Parties made the information they provide publicly available.

Article VI

27. The Conference notes that the provisions of this Article have not been invoked.

28. The Conference emphasizes the provision of Article VI that such a complaint should include all possible evidence confirming its validity. It stresses that, as in the case of the implementation of all the provisions and procedures set forth in the Convention, the procedures foreseen in Article VI should be implemented in good faith within the scope of the Convention.

29. The Conference invites the Security Council:

(a) to consider immediately any complaint lodged under this Article and to initiate any measures it considers necessary for the investigation of the complaint in accordance with the Charter;

(b) to request, if it deems necessary and in accordance with its Resolution 620 of 1988, the United Nations Secretary-General to investigate the allegation of use, using the

technical guidelines and procedures contained in Annex I of United Nations Document A/44/561;

(c) to inform each State Party of the results of any investigation initiated under this Article and to consider promptly any appropriate further action which may be necessary.

30. The Conference reaffirms the agreement of States Parties to consult, at the request of any State Party, regarding allegations of use or threat of use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking of each State Party to cooperate in carrying out any investigations which the Security Council initiates.

31. The Conference notes that the procedure outlined in this Article is without prejudice to the prerogative of the States Parties to consider jointly cases of alleged non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention and to make appropriate decisions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and applicable rules of international law.

Article VII

32. The Conference notes with satisfaction that these provisions have not been invoked.

33. The Conference takes note of desires expressed that, should a request for assistance be made, it be promptly considered and an appropriate response provided. In this context, in view of the humanitarian imperative, pending consideration of a decision by the Security Council, timely emergency assistance could be provided by States Parties, if requested.

34. The Conference recognises that States Parties bear the responsibility for providing assistance and coordinating with relevant organizations in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference reaffirms the undertaking made by each State Party to provide or support assistance in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to any State Party which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such State Party has been exposed to danger as a result of a violation of the Convention.

35. The Conference takes note of the willingness of States Parties, where appropriate, to provide or support assistance to any State Party, which so requests, when that State Party has been exposed to danger or damage as a result of the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons by anyone.

36. The Conference considers that in the event that this Article might be invoked, the United Nations could play a coordinating role in providing assistance, with the help of States Parties, as well as the appropriate intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The Conference recognises the value of further dialogue regarding appropriate means of coordination between States Parties and relevant international organizations.

37. The Conference recognizes that there are challenges to developing effective measures for the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant international organizations to respond to the use of a biological or toxin weapon. The Conference underlines the importance of the coordination of the provision of appropriate assistance, including expertise, information, protection, detection, decontamination, prophylactic and medical and other equipment that could be required to assist the States Parties in the event that a State Party is exposed to danger as a result of a violation of the Convention. The Conference also takes note of the proposal that States Parties may need to discuss the detailed procedure for assistance in order to ensure that timely emergency assistance would

be provided by States Parties, if requested, in the event of use of biological or toxin weapons.

38. The Conference notes that State Parties' national preparedness contributes to international capabilities for response, investigation and mitigation of outbreaks of disease, including those due to alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference notes that there are differences among States Parties in terms of their level of development, national capabilities and resources, and that these differences affect national and international capacity to respond effectively to an alleged use of a biological or toxin weapon. The Conference encourages States Parties, in a position to do so, to assist other States Parties, upon request, to build relevant capacity.

39. The Conference notes the need for States Parties to work nationally, and jointly, as appropriate, to improve, in accordance with their respective circumstances, national laws and regulations, their own disease surveillance and detection capacities for identifying and confirming the cause of outbreaks and cooperating, upon request, to build the capacity of other States Parties. The Conference notes that the International Health Regulations (2005) are important for building capacity to prevent, protect against, control and respond to the international spread of disease; such aims are compatible with the objectives of the Convention.

40. On the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, States Parties recognize that in this regard health and security issues are interrelated at both the national and international levels. The Conference highlights the importance of pursuing initiatives in this area through effective cooperation and sustainable partnerships. The Conference notes the importance of ensuring that efforts undertaken are effective irrespective of whether a disease outbreak is naturally occurring or deliberately caused, and cover diseases and toxins that could harm humans, animals, plants or the environment. The Conference also recognises that capabilities to detect, quickly and effectively respond to, and recover from, the alleged use of a biological or toxin weapon need to be in place before they are required.

Article VIII

41. The Conference appeals to all States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to fulfil their obligations assumed under that Protocol and urges all states not yet party to the Protocol to ratify or accede to it without further delay.

42. The Conference acknowledges that the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, and the Convention complement each other. The Conference reaffirms that nothing contained in the Convention shall be interpreted as in any way limiting or detracting from the obligations assumed by any state under the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

43. The Conference stresses the importance of the withdrawal of all reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol related to the Convention.

44. The Conference recalls the actions which States Parties have taken to withdraw their reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol related to the Convention, and calls upon those States Parties that continue to maintain pertinent reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw those reservations, and to notify the Depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol accordingly, without delay.

45. The Conference notes that reservations concerning retaliation, through the use of any of the objects prohibited by the Convention, even conditional, are totally incompatible

with the absolute and universal prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition and retention of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, with the aim to exclude completely and forever the possibility of their use.

46. The Conference notes that the Secretary-General's investigation mechanism, set out in A/44/561 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/57, represents an international institutional mechanism for investigating cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons. The Conference notes national initiatives to provide relevant training to experts that could support the Secretary-General's investigative mechanism.

Article IX

47. The Conference reaffirms that this Article identifies the recognized objective of the effective prohibition of chemical weapons.

48. The Conference welcomes the fact that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction entered into force on 29 April 1997 and that 188 instruments of ratification or accession have now been deposited with the United Nations. The Conference calls upon all states that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to that Convention without delay.

49. The Conference notes the increasing convergence of biology and chemistry and its possible challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Conventions.

Article X

50. The Conference stresses the importance of implementation of this Article and recalls that States Parties have a legal obligation to facilitate and have the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

51. The Conference reaffirms the commitment to the full and comprehensive implementation of this Article by all States Parties. The Conference recognises that, while recent scientific and technological developments in the field of biotechnology would increase the potential for cooperation among States Parties and thereby strengthen the Convention, they could also increase the potential for the misuse of both science and technology. Therefore, the Conference urges all States Parties possessing advanced biotechnology to adopt positive measures to promote technology transfer and international cooperation on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, particularly with countries less advanced in this field, while promoting the basic objectives of the Convention, as well as ensuring that the promulgation of science and technology is fully consistent with the peaceful object and purpose of the Convention.

52. The Conference recognises the important role of the private sector in the transfer of technology and information and the wide range of organizations within the United Nations system that are already engaged in international cooperation relevant to this Convention.

53. Recognizing the fundamental importance of enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, the Conference agrees on the value of working together to promote capacity building in the fields of vaccine and drug production, disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases as well as biological risk management. The Conference affirms that building such capacity would directly support the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

54. The Conference:

(a) encourages the States Parties to continue strengthening existing international organizations and networks working on infectious diseases, in particular those of the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC, within their respective mandates;

(b) notes that the role of these organizations is limited to the epidemiological and public/animal/plant health aspects of any disease outbreak, but recognises the added value of information exchange with them;

(c) encourages States Parties to improve communication on disease surveillance at all levels, including between States Parties and with the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC;

(d) calls upon States Parties to continue establishing and/or improving national and regional capabilities to survey, detect, diagnose and combat infectious diseases as well as other possible biological threats and integrate these efforts into national and/or regional emergency and disaster management plans;

(e) urges States Parties in a position to do so to continue supporting, directly as well as through international organizations, capacity-building in States Parties in need of assistance in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases and related research;

(f) calls upon States Parties to promote the development and production of vaccines and drugs to treat infectious disease through international cooperation and, as appropriate, public-private partnerships.

55. The Conference recognizes the importance of developing effective national infrastructure for human, animal and plant disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment, as well as national biological risk management through international cooperation and assistance.

56. The Conference, while noting existing bilateral, regional and multilateral assistance, cooperation and partnerships, recognizes, however, that there still remain challenges to be overcome in developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes and that addressing such problems, challenges, needs and restrictions will help States Parties to build sufficient capacity for disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. Keeping in mind Article X, the Conference agrees on the value of targeting and mobilizing resources, including financial resources, to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information to help overcome challenges to disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. Recognizing that all States Parties have a role to play, the Conference stresses that those States Parties seeking to build their capacity should identify their specific needs and requirements and seek partnerships with others, and that those States Parties, in a position to do so, should provide assistance and support.

57. The Conference reaffirms that existing institutional ways and means of ensuring multilateral cooperation among all States Parties need to be developed further in order to promote international cooperation for peaceful uses in areas relevant to the Convention, including areas, such as medicine, public health, agriculture and the environment.

58. The Conference calls for the use of the existing institutional means within the United Nations system and other international organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to promote the objectives of this Article. In this regard the Conference urges States Parties, the United Nations and its specialized agencies to take further specific measures within their competence for the promotion of the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of

bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and of international cooperation in this field.

59. The Conference also recognises that there should be efficient coordination mechanisms between the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations in order to facilitate scientific cooperation and technology transfer.

60. The Conference recognises the need to effectively implement national measures in order to further implementation of Article X. In this regard, the Conference urges States Parties to undertake to review their national regulations governing international exchanges and transfers in order to ensure their consistency with the objectives and provisions of all the articles of the Convention.

61. The Conference encourages States Parties to provide at least biannually appropriate information on how they implement this Article to the Implementation Support Unit within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and requests the Implementation Support Unit to collate such information for the information of States Parties. The Conference welcomes the information provided by a number of States Parties on the cooperative measures they have undertaken towards fulfilling their Article X obligations.

Article XI

62. The Conference recalls that the Islamic Republic of Iran has formally presented at the Sixth Review Conference a proposal to amend Article I and the title of the Convention to include explicitly the prohibition of the use of biological weapons.

63. The Conference recalls the statement at the Sixth Review Conference by the Government of the Russian Federation as a Depositary that it has notified all States Parties of the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran to amend the Convention.

64. The Conference reaffirms that the provisions of this Article should in principle be implemented in such a way as not to affect the universality of the Convention.

Article XII

65. The Conference reaffirms that Review Conferences constitute an effective method of reviewing the operation of the Convention with a view to assuring that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the Convention are being realized. The Conference therefore decides that Review Conferences be held at least every five years.

66. The Conference decides that the Eighth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2016 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, *inter alia*:

(a) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, taking into account the relevant decision of this Conference regarding the review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention;

(b) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention;

(c) progress of the implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Seventh Review Conference, taking into account, as appropriate, decisions and recommendations reached at previous review conferences.

Article XIII

67. The Conference reaffirms that the Convention is of unlimited duration and applies at all times, and expresses its satisfaction that no State Party has exercised its right to withdraw from the Convention.

Article XIV

68. The Conference notes with satisfaction that ten states have acceded to or ratified the Convention since the Sixth Review Conference.

69. The Conference underlines that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single state not party that could possess or acquire biological weapons.

70. The Conference reiterates the high importance of universalization, in particular by affirming the particular importance of the ratification of the Convention by signatory states and accession to the Convention by those which have not signed the Convention, without delay. States Parties agree to continue to promote universalization.

71. The Conference notes that the primary responsibility for promoting the universality of the Convention rests with the States Parties. The Conference urges States Parties to take action to persuade non-parties to accede to the Convention without delay, and particularly welcomes action by States Parties and regional initiatives to provide assistance and support that would lead to wider accession to the Convention.

72. The Conference welcomes regional initiatives that would lead to wider accession and adherence to the Convention.

73. The Conference urges those States Parties, in a position to do so, to offer assistance and support to States in their preparations for ratification or accession to the Convention.

Article XV

74. The Conference welcomes the decision of the Sixth Review Conference that as well as the five languages listed in this Article, Arabic shall be considered an official language for the purposes of any meetings of the States Parties and other formal communications concerning the operation of the Convention.

III. Decisions and recommendations

A. Outcome of the 2007–2010 intersessional programme

1. In accordance with the decision taken by the Sixth Review Conference, Meetings of States Parties of one week duration were held each year, commencing in 2007, to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on six specified topics. Each meeting of States Parties was prepared by a one-week meeting of experts. The six topics were:

(a) Ways and means to enhance national implementation, including enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions.

(b) Regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation of the Convention.

(c) National, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins.

(d) Oversight, education, awareness raising, and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim of preventing misuse in the context of advances in bio-science and bio-technology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the Convention.

(e) With a view to enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases: (1) for States Parties in need of assistance, identifying requirements and requests for capacity enhancement; and (2) from States Parties in a position to do so, and international organizations, opportunities for providing assistance related to these fields.

(f) Provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, including improving national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis and public health systems.

2. The Conference notes that the meetings of States Parties and meetings of experts functioned as an important forum for exchange of national experiences and in-depth deliberations among States Parties. The meetings of States Parties engendered greater common understanding on steps to be taken to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

3. The Conference notes the contribution by the WHO, FAO, OIE and other relevant international organizations, as well as scientific and academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, to the meetings of States Parties and meetings of experts.

4. The Conference reiterates that common understandings were identified in the consensus outcome documents of the meetings of States Parties (BWC/MSP/2007/5, BWC/MSP/2008/5, BWC/MSP/2009/5 and BWC/MSP/2010/6), within their mandates.

B. Intersessional programme 2012–2015

5. Reaffirming the utility of the previous intersessional programmes from 2003–2010, the Conference decides to retain previous structures: annual Meetings of States Parties preceded by annual Meetings of Experts.

6. 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 by this Seventh Review Conference.
7. Recognizing the need to balance an ambition to improve the intersessional programme within the constraints — both financial and human resources — facing States Parties, the Conference decides to continue to allocate ten days each year to the intersessional programme.
8. The Conference decides that the following topics shall be Standing Agenda Items, which will be addressed at meetings of both the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties in every year from 2012–2015:
 - (a) Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X;
 - (b) Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention;
 - (c) Strengthening national implementation.
9. The Conference decides that the following other items will be discussed during the intersessional programme in the years indicated:
 - (a) How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (2012 and 2013);
 - (b) How to strengthen implementation of Article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States Parties (2014 and 2015).
10. The restructured Meetings of Experts will last five days, and Meetings of States Parties five days.
11. The first year's meetings 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 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.
12. Each Meeting of Experts will prepare for the consideration of the Meeting of States Parties a factual report reflecting its deliberations. This report will reflect work on the three Standing Agenda Items, as well as a report on the other item scheduled for discussion during that year.
13. In addition to the report of the Meeting of Experts, the Meetings of States Parties will also consider — on an annual basis — progress with universalization of the Convention and the annual reports of the Implementation Support Unit. In 2012 and 2013, the Meeting of States Parties will also consider the Meeting of Experts report on CBMs, and in 2014 and 2015, the Meeting of States Parties will consider the Meeting of Experts report on Article VII.
14. All meetings, both of experts and of States Parties, will reach any conclusions or results by consensus.
15. The Eighth Review Conference will consider the work and outcome of these meetings and decide on any further action.

C. Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X

1. Standing Agenda Item

16. The Conference decides that the following topics will be addressed under the Standing Agenda Item on cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X:

(a) reports by States Parties on their implementation of Article X, and reports by the ISU on the operation of the database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers;

(b) 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 means of overcoming these;

(c) a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions, including facilitation of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes, and identification of critical gaps and needs in these areas;

(d) ways and means to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

(e) education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;

(f) 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;

(g) coordination of cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

2. Database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers

17. The Conference decides to establish a database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties.

18. States Parties are invited, individually or together with other states or international organizations, to submit on a voluntary basis to the Implementation Support Unit any requirements, needs or offers for assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes. The ISU will establish and administer a database, open to all States Parties, where these requests and offers will be stored.

19. States Parties may use the database to match offers with requests for assistance and then make their own further arrangements. Once a match is made, the States Parties concerned will inform the ISU which will update the database accordingly. The ISU may also, on request, facilitate the exchange of information among States Parties relating to the database and any resulting cooperation and assistance activities.

20. The ISU will submit an annual report on the operation of the database detailing the offers made, requests sought and matches made during a calendar year. The operation of

the database will be reviewed at the Eighth Review Conference based on the reports and/or any recommendations by the meetings of States Parties.

3. Sponsorship programme

21. In order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme, the Conference decides to establish a sponsorship programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties in a position to provide them. The sponsorship programme will be administered by the Implementation Support Unit in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chairs of the Meeting of States Parties. Priority for sponsorship will be given to those States Parties which have previously not participated in the meetings, or have been unable to regularly send experts from capital. Sponsorship may also be provided, depending upon the availability of resources, to enhance participation of states not party in order to promote universalization of the Convention.

D. Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention

22. The Conference decides that the following topics will be addressed under the Standing Agenda Item on review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention:

(a) new science and technology developments that have potential for uses contrary to the provisions of the Convention;

(b) new science and technology developments that have potential benefits for the Convention, including those of special relevance to disease surveillance, diagnosis and mitigation;

(c) possible measures for strengthening national biological risk management, as appropriate, in research and development involving new science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention;

(d) voluntary codes of conduct and other measures to encourage responsible conduct by scientists, academia and industry;

(e) education and awareness-raising about risks and benefits of life sciences and biotechnology.

(f) science- and technology-related developments relevant to the activities of multilateral organizations such as the WHO, OIE, FAO, IPPC and OPCW;

(g) any other science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention.

23. The following topical scientific subjects will be considered in the years indicated:

(a) advances in enabling technologies, including high-throughput systems for sequencing, synthesizing and analyzing DNA; bioinformatics and computational tools; and systems biology (to be considered in 2012);

(b) advances in technologies for surveillance, detection, diagnosis and mitigation of infectious diseases, and similar occurrences caused by toxins in humans, animals and plants (to be considered in 2013).

(c) advances in the understanding of pathogenicity, virulence, toxicology, immunology and related issues (to be considered in 2014);

(d) advances in production, dispersal and delivery technologies of biological agents and toxins (to be considered in 2015);

E. Strengthening national implementation

24. The Conference decides that the following topics will be addressed under the Standing Agenda Item on strengthening national implementation:

(a) a range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention, especially Articles III and IV;

(b) ways and means to enhance national implementation, sharing best practices and experiences, including the voluntary exchange of information among States Parties on their national implementation, enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions;

(c) regional and sub-regional cooperation that can assist national implementation of the Convention;

(d) national, regional and international measures to improve laboratory biosafety and security of pathogens and toxins;

(e) any potential further measures, as appropriate, relevant for implementation of the Convention.

F. Confidence-building measures

25. The Conference notes that the review of Article V of the Convention has shown the need for further enhancing participation of States Parties in the confidence-building measures (CBMs). The Conference therefore decides:

(a) to adopt the revised reporting forms in Annex I as the basis for all CBM submissions from States Parties;

(b) to consider during the 2012–2015 intersessional programme how to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (see section B above);

(c) that the Implementation Support Unit shall, in cooperation with States Parties, continue to examine and develop options for electronic means of submission of CBMs.

26. The Conference calls upon States Parties that have not yet done so to designate a national point of contact responsible preparing the submission of CBMs, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference.

G. Promotion of universalization

27. The Conference notes that although the Convention is a cornerstone of international security, and despite the efforts of the States Parties and the Chairs of the meetings of States Parties with the administrative support of the ISU since the Sixth Review Conference, with only 165 States Parties, membership of the Convention still falls behind other major multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. The Conference agrees that a further concerted effort by States Parties is needed to persuade states not party to join the Convention.

28. The Conference therefore requests States Parties to:

- (a) promote universalization of the Convention through bilateral contacts with states not party;
- (b) promote universalization of the Convention through regional and multilateral fora and activities;
- (c) report, as appropriate, on their activities at annual meetings of States Parties;
- (d) provide, as appropriate, the ISU with relevant information on activities related to the promotion of universalization of the Convention.

29. The Conference decides that the Chairs of meetings of States Parties shall coordinate universalization activities, address states not party to the Convention, provide an annual report on universalization activities at meetings of States Parties, and provide a progress report to the Eighth Review Conference. Bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the States Parties on the implementation of this decision, the Conference tasks the Implementation Support Unit to:

- (a) provide administrative support to the Chairs of meetings of States Parties in the implementation of this decision;
- (b) consolidate and make available information on progress made by states not party towards ratification or accession.

30. The Conference encourages States Parties to give more attention to states in which the ratification or accession process have started or are well advanced, and to those states waiting for further information or assistance or that have other priorities, as described in the annual reports on universalization.

H. Implementation Support Unit

31. The Conference notes that the Implementation Support Unit, which was established by the Sixth Review Conference in order to provide administrative support to meetings agreed by the Review Conference as well as support for the comprehensive implementation and universalization of the Convention and the exchange of confidence-building measures, has successfully discharged its mandate. The Conference therefore decides to renew the mandate of the Unit, *mutatis mutandis*, for the period from 2012 to 2016.

32. The Conference decides that, in addition to the tasks mandated by the Sixth Review Conference, the ISU will perform the following tasks:

- (a) implement the decision to establish and administer the database for assistance requests and offers, and facilitating the associated exchange of information among States Parties;
- (b) support, as appropriate, the implementation by the States Parties of the decisions and recommendations of this Review Conference.

33. The Conference notes that States Parties in a position to do so may consider making voluntary contributions to the Unit to enhance its ability to carry out its mandated tasks. Any such contributions will be made in full transparency, will be detailed in the annual report of the ISU, and will be used exclusively for the mandated tasks of the Unit.

34. The Conference notes that all staff of the ISU will be engaged through the relevant recruitment procedures of the United Nations, considering the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and paying due regard to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

35. The Conference further notes the need to seek to ensure the widest geographic balance possible in staffing the ISU in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

36. The ISU will submit a concise annual written report to all States Parties on its activities to implement its mandate. The Unit's performance will be evaluated and its mandate will be reviewed by States Parties at the Eighth Review Conference.

I. Finances

37. The Conference decides that the costs of the intersessional programme 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.

38. The Conference approves the estimated costs for the intersessional programme for the period 2012 to 2015, as contained in BWC/CONF.VII/4/Rev.1, noting that these estimated costs were prepared on exactly the same basis as the estimated costs for the 2007–2010 intersessional programme, and therefore represent zero real growth, with any nominal increase due solely to currency and inflation factors. 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.