

**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**

Geneva, 1-5 December 2014

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To the Permanent Representatives in Geneva of the
States Parties and Signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition
of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

16 April 2014

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: ISU STAFFING

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the 2014 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). At regional group consultations, held on Friday 11 April, I informed States Parties that the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UN ODA) had decided to dispatch Ms. Gabrielle Kraatz-Wadsack, Chief of their Regional Disarmament Branch as a temporary Head for the Implementation Support Unit during the recruitment of a permanent Head. I understand that it is ODA's intention to bring Ms. Kraatz-Wadsack from New York to Geneva as soon as possible and for her to stay a mission of no more than six months.

Following this decision, I have been consulting with UN ODA on the necessary practicalities. UN ODA will continue to cover Ms. Kraatz-Wadsack's salary during her time as temporary Head. It remains to identify a suitable source of funds to bring Ms. Kraatz-Wadsack to Geneva and to provide her with the usual United Nations daily subsistence allowance during her mission.

A convenient solution is to use the ISU staff budget line to cover these expenses, making use of funds set aside for, but not currently being used to, pay the salary of the Head of the ISU. The costs involved would be less than those already included in our agreed cost estimates for this year. I propose, that as this approach would not incur any additional costs and would help to ensure that the ISU can undertake its mandated task, if no objection is provided to me by the 2 May, then I will communicate to the United Nations our willingness to use the ISU staff budget line to cover the travel and daily subsistence costs.

If you would need further clarifications regarding these arrangements I may propose to you to contact the ISU (tel. +41 22 917 3463, e-mail; pmillet@unog.ch). Of course I am also at your disposal and I can be contacted directly by e-mail at urs.schmid@eda.admin.ch or through the Permanent Mission of Switzerland (tel. +41 22 749 24 24, Mr. Laurent Masméjean).

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



Urs Schmid
Permanent Representative to the Conference
on Disarmament
Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties