

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF
BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN
WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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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

20 June 2014

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: MEETING OF EXPERTS

Excellency,

I am writing once more in my capacity as Chairman of the 2014 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) to update you on preparations for the Meeting of Experts, which will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 to 8 August 2014.

I would like to thank you for your feedback and the comments made at my consultations with the regional groups on 16 June 2014. On this occasion, I was asked to provide some additional information on Guests of the Meeting. In this area as in any other, as noted in my letters of 14 February and 28 May 2014, I intend to rely on our tried and tested working practices and to make use of the solid foundations laid by my predecessors.

Drawing from past practices, I circulated a list of organizations and individual experts in my letter of 28 May that I intend to invite under my own authority as Chairman. I will invite them to speak in a particular part of the programme and to address a specific element of our work at the Meeting of Experts. In the attached list, I am providing additional information on which topics I envisage they might most usefully contribute. I also hope that our Guests of the Meeting, as they have done in the past, will interact with other experts to highlight for us important issues and that we might capture elements of their contributions in the report of the Meeting of Experts.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the invitation made in my previous letters and during the regional group meetings for possible additions to the list of Guests of the Meeting.

To provide some time for reflection, I will wait to invite the Guests of the Meeting until the end of the month. If you would like to nominate any additional organizations or experts for me to invite at that time, I encourage you to contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your active support and collaboration and your valuable feedback. I am confident that we have laid the foundations for a productive and successful Meeting of Experts, and I look forward to working with you during the meeting in August.

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



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

Attachments:

- 1) List of possible guests of the meeting (1 page)

Possible Guests of the Meeting

- **Biotechnology Industry Organization** - to provide a briefing on activities relevant to ways and means to target and mobilize resources to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation.
- **Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network** - to provide a briefing on activities relevant to ways and means to target and mobilize resources to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation.
- **International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations** - to provide a briefing on activities relevant to ways and means to target and mobilize resources to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation.
- **IAP: Global Network of Science Academies** - to provide a briefing on activities relevant to education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the Convention.
- **Brigitte Dorner** (Robert Koch Institute, Germany) - to provide a briefing on a project for the Establishment of Quality Assurance for the Detection of Biological Toxins of Potential Bioterrorism Risk (EQUATOX), as discussed in the ISU background paper on relevant developments in science and technology.
- **George Church** (Harvard Medical School, USA) and **Ken Oye** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA) - to provide a briefing on a new technology for engineering wild populations and associated editorial on the potential security implication, as discussed in the ISU background paper on relevant developments in science and technology.
- **Kevin Mark Coggeshall** (Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, USA) - to provide a briefing on a new model for the lethality of inhalational anthrax, as discussed in the ISU background paper on relevant developments in science and technology.
- **Ron A. M. Fouchier** (Erasmus Medical Centre, Netherlands) - to provide a briefing on a proposal to perform gain-of-function research experiments on H7N9 avian influenza virus, as discussed in the ISU background paper on relevant developments in science and technology.
- **Trevor Shoemaker** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Uganda) - to provide a briefing on the use of genomic analysis in disease response in a series of filovirus outbreaks, as discussed in the ISU background paper on relevant developments in science and technology.