
Biological Threat Perceptions Among International Experts

Wilton Park Conference: 23-25 September 2015

'Compliance with the BTWC: strategies towards the 2016 Review Conference'

In association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Support from

UK Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Attendees

35 government participants

2 international organization reps

13 non-governmental org reps



Questions for Wilton Park meeting

What does BTWC compliance look like?

How can this be widely accepted by States Parties?

How do we deal with demands for a verification protocol?

How can compliance be demonstrated by States Parties, and what measures can be taken nationally, internationally and collectively to put it into practice?

What preparatory work is needed before the Eighth Review Conference?

Can realistic objectives for agreement be set?

Differing Perceptions of BW Threat and Compliance

POINTS OF AGREEMENT

A State Party could maintain a breakout BW capacity while appearing to remain in compliance

Terrorists are more likely than States to use BW

States are more likely to use BW on a small scale than in a mass-casualty attack

POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT

Likelihood of attack on livestock/crops?

Number of non-state actors interested in BW?

Compliance of all states?

Necessity of legally binding verification protocol?

Conference Report

The agenda, conference report, podcasts, and other materials are available at:

<https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/conference/wp1416>