

**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, 22-25 November 2021

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To: Representatives of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention  
Representatives of Signatory States to the Biological Weapons Convention  
Representatives of Observer States to the Biological Weapons Convention  
Representatives of the United Nations, specialized agencies and regional  
intergovernmental organizations  
Representatives of non-governmental organizations

25 October 2021

**BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION – 2020 MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
AND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE NINTH REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Excellency,

As you are aware, the 2020 BWC Meeting of States Parties and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Ninth Review Conference were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As agreed by States Parties via a silence procedure on 8 February October 2021, the Meeting of States Parties has been re-scheduled to be held at the Palais des Nations from 22 to 25 November 2021. The Meeting of States Parties will be chaired by Ambassador Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu of Kenya. The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Ninth Review Conference remains as originally planned on 26 and 29 November 2021, subject to availability of a conference room on 29 November.

I would hereby like to inform you of the practical arrangements for the Meeting of States Parties and the Preparatory Committee. Detailed information is provided in the annexed Aide-Mémoire.

**Meeting modalities**

The Meeting of States Parties will take place in-person in Room XIX from 22-25 November in the E Building of the Palais des Nations. The Preparatory Committee will take place in-person on 26 November in Room XIX and on 29 November, subject to availability of a conference room. Although physical distancing measures which limit the capacity of conference rooms are in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all BWC States Parties will be able to be represented in the conference room. Public sessions of the Meeting of States Parties and the Preparatory Committee will be broadcast live on UN Web TV with interpretation in all official UN languages.

**Registration**

Registration for the Meeting of States Parties and the Preparatory Committee is now open. States Parties, Signatory States, Observer States and international organizations are kindly asked to send a note verbale to the Implementation Support Unit at the e-mail address above conveying the composition of their delegation with the full names, titles and functions of the

members, no later than 12 November 2021. Non-governmental organizations and academic institutions should send an official letter with the full names, titles and functions of their participants.

In line with UNOG guidelines and regulations in response to COVID-19, all participants attending the Meeting of States Parties and the Preparatory Committee in person, including those who already have a UN grounds pass, must also register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/20126/>. This is required by the Swiss authorities for COVID-19 contact tracing purposes. Participants are kindly requested to start the registration process now as all registrations must be completed by **12 November 2021**. The note verbale or letter mentioned above must be uploaded by each participant during this registration process.

Participants who intend to follow the proceedings remotely on UN Web TV do not need to register online. Registration is exclusively for in-person participants whereas UN Web TV can be accessed without prior registration.

### **Speakers list**

The list of speakers for the general debate during the Meeting of States Parties is now open. In order to inscribe a delegation on the list of speakers, please send a request by e-mail to the Implementation Support Unit on the address above.

### **Documentation**

States Parties intending to submit working papers to the Meeting of States Parties or the Preparatory Committee are encouraged to do so by **12 November 2021** in order that the documents are processed and made available to all participants in good time. Such documents should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to the e-mail address above.

### **Side events**

Due to the COVID-19 measures, events and meetings at the Palais des Nations need to comply with specific requirements. The Implementation Support Unit will therefore not have the capacity or resources to facilitate in-person side events. Please also note that room availability is limited in light of the renovations of the Palais de Nations under the Strategic Heritage Plan. However, virtual side events can be arranged by the organizers/conveners themselves and the Implementation Support Unit will compile and make available online a list of all such events communicated to it.

### **Travel restrictions**

Travel restrictions are currently in place in Switzerland due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Persons wishing to participate in the Meeting of States Parties and the Preparatory Committee are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the requirements regarding entry into Switzerland prior to travel.

More detailed information on the issues described above is provided in the attached Aide-Mémoire. Please review this document carefully prior to registration. Further information and official documents for the Meeting of States Parties and the Preparatory Committee can be found at <https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/bwc-msp-2020/> and <https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/bwc-prepcom-2021/> respectively.

Any queries can be directed to the Implementation Support Unit at the e-mail address above.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Daniel Feakes  
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit

Attachment:

- 1) Aide-Mémoire for participants from States Parties, Signatory States, Observer States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.