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

5 August 2022

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
FORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Excellency,

On 29 June 2022, the Russian Federation requested the convening of a Formal Consultative Meeting pursuant to Article V of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Final Declarations of the Second and Third Review Conferences.

An informal meeting took place on 27 July 2022 to discuss the arrangements for the formal consultative meeting. The understandings reached at the informal meeting were detailed in a letter from the Chairperson, Ambassador Aidan Liddle of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which was sent to all States Parties and Signatory States on 28 July 2022.

I would therefore like to inform you of the practical arrangements for the Formal Consultative Meeting.

Meeting modalities

The opening session of the Formal Consultative Meeting will be convened by the Depositaries of the Convention on 26 August 2022 in Room XX in the E Building of the Palais des Nations. This will be a brief procedural session to open the Meeting and it will be immediately suspended once opened. This session will take place without interpretation. The Meeting will then resume over four days on 5, 6, 7 and 9 September 2022 in Room XXVI in the E Building with full interpretation (8 September 2022 is a UN holiday and no meetings will take place on that day).

The Meeting will be chaired by Ambassador Dr. György Molnár of Hungary. Six vice-chairs will be elected, three from the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC, two from the Western Group and one from the Eastern European Group. The coordinators of the respective regional groups have been requested to provide nominations for these office-holders to the Implementation Support Unit by 26 August for communication to all States Parties.

The rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VIII/2) will apply mutatis mutandis to the Formal Consultative Meeting.

The Meeting will be closed and only open to representatives of States Parties and Signatory States. It will be an in-person meeting and will not be publicly broadcast. Summary records will not be prepared.

Registration

Registration for the Formal Consultative Meeting is now open. States Parties and Signatory States wishing to participate in the Meeting are kindly asked to send a note verbale to the Implementation

Secretariat:
BWC Implementation Support Unit
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland
tel: +41 (0)22 917 2230
e-mail: bwc@un.org
www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons
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 **19 August 2022**.

Participants wishing to attend the Formal Consultative Meeting who are not already in possession of a UN grounds pass, must register online at [https://indico.un.org/event/1002395](https://indico.un.org/event/1002395). Participants are kindly requested to start the registration process now as all registrations must be completed by **19 August 2022**. The note verbale mentioned above must be uploaded by each participant during registration.

**COVID-19 measures**

Meeting participants are reminded that it remains mandatory for masks to be worn in all conference rooms in the Palais des Nations. Please also remember that you must not come to the UN premises if you develop any COVID-like symptoms or test positive for the virus.

**Documentation**

Advance versions (in English only) of the provisional agenda and the provisional programme of work for the Formal Consultative Meeting are available on the website for the Meeting at [https://meetings.unoda.org/section/bwc-fcm-2022-documents/](https://meetings.unoda.org/section/bwc-fcm-2022-documents/). These two documents are currently being translated and will be available via the same link in all official UN languages before the Meeting.

States Parties wishing to have their national statements or other documents posted to the same website are kindly requested to submit them in Microsoft Word format to the e-mail address above so that they can be issued as official working papers of the Meeting. Such documents will be issued in the language of submission.

**Speaker’s list**

States Parties wishing to take the floor during the sessions set aside for national statements by other delegations are invited to inform the Implementation Support Unit so that they can be inscribed in the list of speakers. In order to assist the interpreters during the Meeting, copies of national statements should also be sent to [speeches@un.org](mailto:speeches@un.org)

**Financial issues**

At the Third Review Conference, States Parties agreed that the costs of a consultative meeting “shall be met by the States Parties participating in accordance with the United Nations assessment scale pro-rated to take into account differences between the United Nations membership and the number of States Parties participating in the meeting”. Invoices have therefore been prepared by the United Nations Office at Geneva and were circulated by the Implementation Support Unit on 3 August 2022 to those States Parties which participated in the informal meeting on 27 July 2022. States Parties are kindly requested to pay these invoices as soon as possible.

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

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signature]

Daniel Feakes
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit