



UK Mission
Geneva

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**Office of the
Permanent Representative to the
Conference on Disarmament**
58 Avenue Louis Casarī
1216 Cointrin
Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 22 918 2328
Fax: +41 (0) 22 918 2344
aidan.liddle@fco.gov.uk

States Parties and States Signatories to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
Geneva

(By e-mail)

Excellencies, dear delegates

I write in connection with the request from the Russian Federation to convene a formal consultative meeting pursuant to Article V of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the Final Declarations of the Convention's Second and Third Review Conferences, in my capacity as Chair of the informal meeting which took place on 27 July 2022 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

I have the honour to inform States Parties and States Signatories to the Convention that the informal meeting reached the following understandings on the organisational and procedural arrangements for the formal consultative meeting under Article V of the Convention:

- (a) The formal consultative meeting will take place on 26 August and from 5-9 September 2022, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The meeting on 26 August will be convened by the Depositaries of the Convention for the purpose of opening the formal consultative meeting only; will be immediately suspended once opened; and will take place without interpretation. The substantive portion of the formal consultative meeting will take place over four days, on 5, 6, 7 and 9 September 2022 (8 September 2022 is a UN holiday and no meetings will take place on that day).
- (b) The Chair of the formal consultative meeting will be Ambassador 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 BTWC, two from the Western Group, and one from the Eastern European Group. The coordinators of the respective regional groups are hereby requested to provide nominations for these office-holders to the Implementation Support Unit by 26 August for communication to all States Parties.
- (c) The formal consultative meeting will take place in private; only States Parties and States Signatories to the Convention will be able to participate. There will be no

public broadcast of the formal consultative meeting, and no summary records will be prepared. Participation will be in-person only, with no hybrid meeting facility provided. Official documents of the formal consultative meeting will be published on the BTWC website. States Parties and States Signatories may, on request, submit their national positions or other documents to be published on the BTWC website as official working papers of the meeting.

- (d) The draft provisional agenda and an outline provisional programme of work of the formal consultative meeting are attached to this letter.
- (e) The rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VIII/2) will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the formal consultative meeting.

Consistent with the decision of the Third Review Conference (BWC/CONF.III/23, Part II, page 16), the costs of the 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 will now be prepared by the United Nations Office at Geneva and circulated by the Implementation Support Unit as soon as possible.

The Implementation Support Unit will provide further logistical details in due course.

Please accept, Excellencies, dear delegates, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AL', written in a cursive style.

Aidan Liddle
Ambassador

Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament