

BWC Formal Consultative Meeting

26 August and 5-9 September 2022

Final report – ADVANCE VERSION

1. As agreed at the Informal Meeting held on 27 July 2022 and subsequently confirmed in a letter sent by Ambassador Aidan Liddle of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to all States Parties on 28 July 2022, the Formal Consultative Meeting of States Parties to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) requested by the Russian Federation was convened at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 26 August 2022 by the Depositary Governments. The Meeting was reconvened from 5 to 9 September 2022. The States Parties held eight meetings during that period under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Gyorgy Molnar of Hungary who was elected on 5 September 2022.
2. The States Parties also elected four Vice-Chairs from the following countries: Canada, China, Republic of Moldova and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the BWC Implementation Support Unit, Office for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Meeting.
3. In accordance with the understandings in the letter dated 28 July 2022 from Ambassador Liddle, the Formal Consultative Meeting took place in private and only States Parties and Signatory States to the Convention participated. In addition, there was no public broadcast of the Formal Consultative Meeting, and no summary records were prepared. States Parties and Signatory States could request that their national positions or other documents be published on the BWC website as official working papers of the Meeting.
4. States Parties adopted the agenda of the Formal Consultative Meeting (BWC/CONS/2022/1), as contained in Annex I¹ to this report, and agreed to be guided by the provisional programme of work (BWC/CONS/2022/2), as proposed by the Chairperson.
5. States Parties decided to apply, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/2.
6. The following 89 States Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

¹ Annex I will be added to the final version of this report.

7. The following Signatory State to the Convention also participated in the Meeting: Syrian Arab Republic.
8. On 5 September 2022, the Meeting heard, under agenda item 6, the presentation by the Russian Federation of its Article V consultation request regarding respective outstanding questions by the Russian Federation to the United States and to Ukraine concerning the fulfilment of their respective obligations under the Convention in the context of the operation of biological laboratories in Ukraine (see relevant Working Papers). On 5 and 6 September 2022, the Meeting heard the response by the delegations of Ukraine and the United States (see relevant Working Papers). Each delegation then made further statements amplifying points raised in their statements.
9. On 7 September 2022, the Meeting considered the issues for which the Meeting was requested by the Russian Federation and heard national statements from the following 42 States Parties: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), France, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania (on behalf of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia), Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam. One Signatory State also took the floor: Syrian Arab Republic. There then followed an opportunity to respond for the Russian Federation, the United States and Ukraine. States Parties welcomed the fact that the delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the United States had sought to clarify their positions with respect to the concerns raised by the Russian Federation. States Parties noted that the consultation was fully in conformity with the conclusions of the final document of the Third Review Conference relevant to the application of Article V of the Convention.
10. No consensus was reached regarding the outcome of the Formal Consultative Meeting.
11. A list of official documents of the Formal Consultative Meeting, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in Annex II² to this report. All documents on this list are available on the Convention's website at <https://meetings.unoda.org/section/bwc-fcm-2022-documents/> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>
12. At its closing meeting on 9 September 2022, the Meeting adopted its report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/CONS/2022/3.

² Annex II will be added to the final version of this report. Several documents are still being processed. As they are issued, official documents will also be posted at <https://meetings.unoda.org/section/bwc-fcm-2022-documents/>