

Information Note¹

- Event:** The workshop “The Eighth BWC Review Conference: Promoting BWC Implementation, Enhancing Global Biosecurity Governance”
- Organizer:** China, Canada and the Implementation Support Unit of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC-ISU)
- Date and Venue:** 5-7 September 2016, Wuxi, China
- Participants:** Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United States of America, Venezuela
UN entities, international and regional organizations
The United Nations 1540 Committee Group of Experts, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Non-Governmental organisations
Inter Academy Panel (IAP), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), University of Bradford (UK)

Background

The Eighth BWC Review Conference will be held in Geneva from 7 to 25 November 2016. The Conference will be an important opportunity for the States Parties to review the operation of the Convention and to consider measures for improving its implementation and strengthening its effectiveness. The workshop in Wuxi was designed to contribute to the preparation for this event, and provide States Parties and relevant organizations the opportunity to discuss the full range of issues surrounding the BWC, and all aspects of international efforts to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons.

On 16 June 2016, the Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations (Geneva) and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office (Geneva) and to the Conference on Disarmament and the Chief, BWC-ISU, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs sent an invitation to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting him to send a member of the Group of Experts to participate in the workshop and to contribute to the discussion.

Overview

Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Yang Li, Deputy Director General of Department of Arms Control and Disarmament, MFA of China, Ambassador Rosemary McCarney, Canada, Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief, BWC ISU and Ambassador György Molnar, Hungary, President-Designate of the Eighth BWC Review Conference

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

The speakers emphasised the role of the BWC as a global cornerstone in the multilateral arms control and disarmament and stressed the importance of the Eighth Review Conference in shaping the future of the BWC. They also welcomed the opportunity offered by the Wuxi Workshop to explore issues related to the Eighth Review Conference and its successful conduct.

The 1540 expert made a presentation on the complementarity between resolution 1540 (2004) and the Biological Weapons Convention and provided an update on the status of implementation of the resolution). The 1540 expert noted recent 1540-related developments including the Comprehensive Review due to be finalised before December 2016.

The following topics were discussed during the workshop:

- The 2012-2015 intersessional process;
- Strengthening the review process on breakthroughs in science and technology;
- Promoting the international cooperation for peaceful purposes;
- Enhancing participation in the Confidence Building Measure (CBM) system, in terms of both quantity and quality;
- Innovative strategies and new mechanisms for strengthening the Convention in the future.

The workshop demonstrated strong commitment of participating States to use the opportunity provided by the Eighth BWC Review Conference to enhance the implementation of the BWC.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts