I. Organization and work of the Conference

A. Introduction

1. The Final Document of the Eighth Review Conference 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 (BWC/CONF.VIII/4), in paragraph 77 of the Final Declaration, contained the following decision:

“The Conference decides that the Ninth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2021 and should review the operation of the Convention, taking into account, inter alia:

(a) new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention;

(b) the progress made by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention; and

(c) progress of the implementation of decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the Eighth Review Conference, taking into account, as appropriate, decisions and recommendations reached at previous review conferences.”

2. The final report of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties considered the arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee and contained the following decisions:

“29. As reflected in the reports of the 2020 Meetings of Experts and this report, the 2020 meetings were postponed several times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2018-2020 intersessional programme could therefore not be concluded as originally planned in 2020.

30. In May 2021, States Parties therefore agreed by written silence procedure that several technical recommendations would be submitted for formal consideration and

* Any entry listed in this document does not imply the expression of any opinion regarding, and is without prejudice to, the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities.
approval by the appropriate upcoming BWC meetings. In this regard, the Meeting of States Parties decided that the Preparatory Committee would be held in Geneva in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the BWC on 20 December 2021. It was agreed that this meeting would consider the agenda items on the organizational aspects of the Review Conference.

31. While acknowledging that the Eighth Review Conference in 2016 decided that “the Ninth Review Conference shall be held in Geneva not later than 2021”, the Meeting of States Parties, taking into account the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, exceptionally and without setting a precedent, agreed the following technical adjustments:

(a) the Ninth Review Conference would be held in Geneva in in-person format in accordance with the regular practice under the BWC from 8 to 26 August 2022.”

3. Subsequently, at its meeting on 11 April 2022, the Preparatory Committee decided that:

“29. Taking into account the extraordinary circumstances, the Preparatory Committee reconsidered the decision of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties and decided that the Ninth Review Conference should take place in Geneva from 28 November to 16 December 2022.”

4. By resolution 76/67, adopted without a vote on 6 December 2021, and resolution 77/95, adopted without a vote on 7 December 2022, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the Depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the conduct and the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences.

5. The Preparatory Committee convened and held two meetings in Geneva on 20 December 2021 and then resumed its work from 4 to 11 April 2022 during which time it held 12 meetings. The following 115 delegations participated in the Preparatory Committee: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Peter Kolarov, Political Affairs Officer, Office for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Preparatory Committee on 20 December 2021. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Hermann Lampalzer, Deputy Chief, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij, Political Affairs Officer,
Implementation Support Unit and Ms. María José Orellana Alfaro, Documents Management Assistant served in the Secretariat.

7. At its meeting on 20 December 2021, the Preparatory Committee unanimously elected Mr. Florian Antohi of Romania and Mr. Tancredi Francese of Italy as Vice-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee authorized the Bureau to handle technical and other matters in the period before the Review Conference was convened.

8. At its meeting on 8 April 2022, the Preparatory Committee took note of the decision of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC to hand over the presidency of the Ninth Review Conference and to retain its rotational right to preside over the Tenth Review Conference.

9. At the same meeting, Australia, as Coordinator of the Western Group, advised that the capacity of the Group to nominate for the position of President of the Review Conference was linked to the question of the dates of the Review Conference. The Coordinator further advised that this was a product of the need for any incoming President to have sufficient time to undertake the necessary preparations for the Review Conference. It also reflected the demands on delegations within the Western Group connected with the disarmament calendar for 2022.

10. The Coordinator of the Western Group presented the nomination of Mr. Leonardo Bencini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative-Designate of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament, for the position of President of the Ninth Review Conference. The Coordinator also specified that Ambassador Bencini’s capacity to fulfil this role was subject to a decision by the Preparatory Committee that the Ninth Review Conference shall be held from 28 November to 16 December 2022, in order to ensure him time to undertake the necessary preparations and consultations.

11. The Preparatory Committee therefore agreed to recommend to the Ninth Review Conference that Mr. Leonardo Bencini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative-Designate of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament, preside over the Conference, on the understanding that the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC decided to retain its rotational right to preside over the Tenth Review Conference.

12. The Preparatory Committee decided to take its decisions by consensus.

13. The Preparatory Committee decided to use Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish as official languages.

14. The Preparatory Committee, in accordance with draft rule 44, paragraph 1, noted the participation, without the right to take part in the adoption of decisions, of one State that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it, the Syrian Arab Republic.

15. The Preparatory Committee, taking note of written requests and in accordance with the draft rule 44, paragraph 2, decided to invite the representatives of two States neither party nor signatory to the Convention, Israel and Namibia, to participate as observers.

16. In the course of its session, the Preparatory Committee considered the following questions relating to the organization of the Review Conference:

   (a) Date and duration;
   (b) Provisional agenda;
   (c) Draft rules of procedure;
   (d) Background documentation;
   (e) Publicity;
(f) Final document(s);
(g) Appointment of a provisional Secretary-General; and
(h) Financial arrangements for the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference.

17. At its meeting, on 11 April 2022, the Preparatory Committee adopted its final report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/CONF.IX/PC/10.

18. Pursuant to the request of the Preparatory Committee, the following background documents were prepared by the Implementation Support Unit and issued as pre-session documents for the Conference:

(a) A background information document on the history and operation of the confidence-building measures agreed at the Second Review Conference and revised at the Third and Seventh Review Conferences. The document should include data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the measures since the last Review Conference;

(b) A background information document on the overall financial status of the Convention and implications of proposals for follow-on action after the Ninth Review Conference;

(c) A background information document showing the additional understandings and agreements reached by previous Review Conferences relating to each article of the Convention, extracted from the respective Final Declarations of these conferences;

(d) A background information document showing the common understandings reached by the Meetings of States Parties during the intersessional programme held from 2017 to 2020;

(e) A background information document on the status of universalization of the Convention;

(f) A background information document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties;

(g) A background information document on the implementation of Article VII, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties;

(h) A background information document on the implementation of Article X, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties, including information submitted pursuant to paragraph 61 of the Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference;

(i) A background information document on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, to be compiled from information submitted by States Parties.

B. Organization of the Conference

19. In accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 28 November to 16 December 2022.

20. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, opened the Conference.
21. At its first meeting, on 28 November 2022, the Conference elected by acclamation Ambassador Leonardo Bencini of Italy as President.

22. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, addressed the Conference via a video message.

23. The Conference adopted its agenda as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.IX/1). The agenda as adopted is attached as Annex [...] to this Final Document.

24. The Conference took note with appreciation of the final report of the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.IX/PC/10).

25. The Conference adopted its Rules of Procedure as recommended by the Preparatory Committee (BWC/CONF.IX/2). The Rules of Procedure provided, *inter alia*, for:

   (a) a General Committee, chaired by the President of the Conference, and composed of the President, the 20 Vice-Presidents, the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Committee of the Whole, the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Drafting Committee, the Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the Credentials Committee, the three Regional Group Coordinators and the Depositaries (see paragraph 24 of the report of the Preparatory Committee);

   (b) a Committee of the Whole;

   (c) a Drafting Committee; and

   (d) a Credentials Committee composed of a Chair and Vice-Chair elected by the Conference, and five other members appointed by the Conference on the proposal of the President.

26. The Conference elected by acclamation 20 Vice-Presidents from the following States Parties: Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malawi, Panama, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland. It also elected by acclamation the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee of the Whole, the Drafting Committee and the Credentials Committee, as follows:

   **Committee of the Whole**
   Chair: Ambassador Tatiana Molcean (Republic of Moldova)
   Vice-Chair: Mr. Andreas Bilgeri (Austria)
   Vice-Chair: Mr. Angel Horna (Peru)

   **Drafting Committee**
   Chair: Ms. Sara Lindegren (Sweden)
   Vice-Chair: Mr. Ljupčo Gjorgjinski (North Macedonia)
   Vice-Chair: Mr. Jonelle John Domingo (Philippines)

   **Credentials Committee**
   Chair: Mr. Angus September (South Africa)
   Vice-Chair: Mr. Ali Sezgin Isilak (Türkiye)
The Conference also appointed the following five States Parties as members of the Credentials Committee: Finland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea and Serbia.

27. The Conference noted the decision of one State Party to withdraw from the Eastern European Group as contained in BWC/CONF.IX/26 and to establish a new regional group under the Convention, consisting of that State Party, and functioning in accordance with the practice of the Convention on a non-discriminatory basis as the other regional groups. The Conference reaffirms the importance of the principle of equitable geographical representation within the Convention. The Conference noted that this State Party indicated that this withdrawal does not set a precedent, concerns only the work within the Convention and has no consequences outside of it, with regard to the work of UN bodies or the membership in the Eastern European Group within the UN.

28. The Conference confirmed the nomination of Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, as Secretary-General of the Conference. The nomination had been made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations following an invitation by the Preparatory Committee. Mr. Hermann Alex Lampalzer, Deputy Chief, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, Ms. María José Orellana Alfaro, Documents Management Assistant, Ms. Barbara Hemmerle, Political Affairs Intern, Ms. Swann Jin, Political Affairs Intern, Mr. Nils Justen, Political Affairs Intern and Mr. Ryan Teo, Political Affairs Intern all served in the Secretariat.

C. Participation at the Conference

29. The following [...] delegations participated in the Conference: [...] 30. In addition, two States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Conference without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure: Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic.

31. Four States, Comoros, Djibouti, Israel and South Sudan, neither parties nor signatories to the Convention, were granted Observer status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2 (a) of the Rules of Procedure.


33. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) the European Union (EU), the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) were granted Observer Agency status in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure.

34. Forty-eight non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Conference under rule 44, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure.
D. Work of the Conference

35. The Conference held […] plenary meetings between 28 November and 16 December 2022.

36. At its first plenary meeting, on 28 November 2022, the Conference adopted its indicative programme of work, as set out in BWC/CONF.IX/3.

37. The Conference held a general debate, in which the following delegations made statements: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States), Belarus (on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization), Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia (on behalf of Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia (on behalf of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany (on behalf of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction), Germany, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Russian Federation (on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States), Russian Federation (on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation), Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor Leste, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia. Statements were also made by the European Union, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Interpol.

38. The Committee of the Whole held […] meetings between 30 November and […], during which it reviewed the provisions of the Convention, article by article. The Committee submitted its report BWC/CONF.IX/COW/CRP.1 to the Conference at the […] plenary meeting, on […]. The Conference took note of the report to be issued as document BWC/CONF.IX/COW/1.

39. During the Conference, the President conducted a series of informal consultations, and was assisted in his work by Facilitators in the following areas:

- Assistance and cooperation (Article X): Ambassador Maria Teresa Almojuela (Philippines)
- Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention: Mr. Ljupčo Gjorgjinski (North Macedonia)
- National implementation: Ms. Grisselle del Carmen Rodriguez Ramirez (Panama)
- Assistance, response and preparedness (Article VII): Ms. Tiyamike Banda (Malawi)
- Future intersessional work programme: Mr. Tancredi Francesc (Italy)
- Finances and the ISU: Ms. Henriëtte van Gulik (Netherlands)

40. The Drafting Committee held no formal meetings.

41. The Credentials Committee held […] meetings. At its […] and final meeting on […], the Credentials Committee adopted its report as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/CC/CRP.1 to be issued as document BWC/CONF.VIII/CC/1. The Conference took note of the report.
E. Documentation


F. Conclusion of the Conference

43. At its […] and final plenary meeting, on 16 December 2022, the Conference adopted by consensus its Final Document, as contained in document BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.x, comprising three parts and two annexes, as follows:

   Part I: Organization and work of the Conference
   Part II: Final Declaration
   Part III: Decisions and recommendations
   Annex I: Agenda of the Conference
   Annex II: List of documents of the Conference