

**SIXTH 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**

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

15 August 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVISIONAL SECRETARY-GENERAL

Excellency,

As you are aware, the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention will be held in Geneva from 20 November to 8 December 2006. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on recent developments.

New Website

A new section of the UNOG website devoted to the Biological Weapons Convention was officially launched on 4 August and can be viewed online at <http://www.unog.ch/bwc>. It contains a wide range of up-to-date information about the BWC and its meetings, and is designed as a "one-stop shop" where delegations can find all the latest communications, news and documents related to official meetings of the BWC (for example, you will find this message in the "Communications" section of the "Information for States Parties" page). The website contains practical information on the Sixth Review Conference, including on registration and credentials. It also has information and guidance on the Confidence-building Measures (CBMs), including blank submission forms.

I hope that you will find this website to be a useful resource, and I encourage you to check it regularly for updates as we move closer to the Review Conference.

Contributions to background documents

Further to Mr Lennane's letter of 29 May, in accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee, States Parties are invited to submit contributions for inclusion in the background document on compliance with the Convention, and the background document on new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention. I would like to remind you that the deadline for submissions is **Friday 1 September 2006**. Further information is available on the "Information for States Parties" page of the website.

Credentials for the Review Conference

I would like to remind States Parties that according to the Draft Rules of Procedure of the Sixth Review Conference, formal credentials are required for participation. These credentials must be signed either by the head of state or government, or by the minister for foreign affairs. The Credentials Committee of the Conference will review the credentials submitted, and will report to the Conference on any missing or inadequate credentials. I know that obtaining duly signed credentials can take considerable time, so I encourage delegations to make the necessary arrangements well in advance.

Please note that this applies only to States Parties; signatories are not required to submit formal credentials.

Registration

As well as credentials, the usual registration procedures will apply. Each delegation should provide a *note verbale* from its Permanent Mission listing the members of the delegation, along with completed registration forms **only for those members who do not already have a security badge to enter the Palais**. The website contains full instructions for registration, including blank registration forms. I would encourage delegations to register from mid-October onwards; I will write to you again at that time to remind.

Further information

If you have any queries on the arrangements for the Sixth Review Conference, please contact Mr Richard Lennane on 022 917 2230, e-mail: bwc@unog.ch.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[signed]

Tim Caughley
Director, Geneva Branch,
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Provisional Secretary-General of the
Sixth Review Conference