



Goals of the Diplomatic Training Course

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Diplomatic Building Blocks

A training course in support of the
2008 BTWC Meetings of Experts and States Parties
Geneva, 18–19 March 2008



Concept and goals

■ **Concept**

- Annual 2-day course focussing on the topic of the Intersessional Process approximately ahead of the Meeting of the Experts (2008-2010)
- 2-day course ahead of the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 7th Review Conference (2011)

■ **Goals**

- Reinforce the level of expertise and background knowledge on the BTWC
 - To increase participation from developing and small countries
 - For the benefit of junior diplomats and diplomats just posted to Geneva
 - Interested members of the press, academia and civil society
- Stimulate thinking on the future of the BTWC
- Consider strategies and policy options on the 'Topic of the Year'
- Foster and amplify networking among States Parties
- Increase interest for BTWC among non-States Parties



The 2008 Agenda

■ Core topics

- National, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins; and
- Oversight, education, awareness raising, and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim to prevent misuse in the context of advances in bio-science and bio-technology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the Convention

■ Recurring topics

- National implementation
- Confidence-building measures
- Universalization



Diplomatic Building Blocks

■ **Four modules**

- General introduction to BTWC and 2008 agenda
- Biosecurity and biosafety
- Codes of conduct, awareness raising and oversight
- Recurring themes

■ **Process**

- After each expert introduction: Short Q&A
- Each core topic is followed by a plenary discussion session (lists with possible discussion topics sent via e-mail)