

**MEETING 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**

Geneva, 4-7 December 2018

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To the Permanent Representatives 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

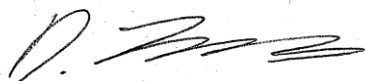
6 August 2018

**BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Excellency,

I have the honour to convey the attached letter from the Chairman of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, Mr. Ljupčo Jivan Gjorgjinski, of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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



Daniel Feakes  
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit



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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

TO THE UN, WTO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

Nº 16 - 01 - 171 / 5

Geneva, 06 August 2018

**BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION 2018 MEETING OF STATES PARTIES**

Towards an  
*Information Paper on Measures to Address  
Financial Predictability and Sustainability*

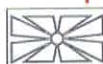
Excellency,

I write to you in my capacity as Chair of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

As you will recall, the outcome document of the 2017 MSP achieved consensus, among other things, in paragraph 19 (f) that "[t]he Meeting of States Parties will be responsible for managing the intersessional programme, including taking necessary measures with respect to budgetary and financial matters by consensus with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the intersessional programme." It then addressed specifically the financial situation and gave in paragraph 20 a mandate to the incoming Chair to prepare an Information Paper on Measures to Address Financial Predictability and Sustainability:

Noting with concern the financial situation of the Convention on account inter alia of systemic issues with the current funding arrangements as well as arrears in payment of assessed contributions, the Meeting requested the Chairman of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to prepare an Information Paper in consultation with the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Implementation Support Unit and States Parties on measures to address financial predictability and sustainability for the meetings agreed by the States Parties and for the Implementation Support Unit for review by States Parties in 2018.

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The financial situation of concern is not only present in the BTWC context, but also in other disarmament frameworks, the CCW one being quite similar. The experience there, of losing the essential services of its ISU, should serve as an important warning. Appreciation goes to both Ambassador Matthew Rowland of the UK and to Ambassador Janis Karklins of Latvia for their dedicated leadership in this matter and for helping clarify the general frameworks in which these important conventions function. Nevertheless, BTWC, as similar as it is to CCW in this sense, is also somewhat different.

We must thus find the right answers to the right questions in order to put this important convention on solid footing for the long-term. At the most general level, the issue can be described as a cash flow problem. At a slightly less general level, the systemic issues mentioned are the result of a general framework — financial and legal — that give way to significant tensions that need to be first understood and then resolved.

The solutions should: address potential moral hazard issues; discourage unconstructive “business-as-usual” attitudes henceforth; and, not allow any relative political advantages or disadvantages among and between states parties. Most importantly, any measures we discuss should seek to put the Convention on solid financial footing.

In that respect, I encourage States Parties to put forward proposals on workable measures to address the financial predictability and sustainability of the BTWC. I will use these inputs in putting together the Information Paper for review of States Parties during the MSP in December. States Parties that send me written inputs may decide to also submit them formally at that time. Additional informal consultations, as needed, may precede the MSP.

States Parties intending to submit written input are encouraged to do so by **14 September 2018**. The inputs may be sent to me at the Macedonian mission or to the ISU.

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



Ljupčo Jivan Gjorgjinski

Minister Counselor and *Chargé d'Affaires*

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia in Geneva

Chair of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention