

**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 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 October 2018

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION – 2018 MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Excellency,

As you are aware, the 2018 BWC Meetings of States Parties is planned to be held at the Palais des Nations from 4 to 7 December 2018. Further to the letter sent by the Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties, Mr. Ljupčo Jivan Gjorgjinski of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 11 October, I would like to inform you of the practical arrangements for the Meeting and the launch of applications for the BWC Sponsorship Programme.

Practical arrangements

The Meeting of States Parties is open to all States Parties and Signatories to the BWC. Formal credentials are **not** required for the Meeting of States Parties. States Parties and Signatories are instead requested to register their participation by letter or note verbale addressed to the Implementation Support Unit, listing the details of their delegation as they would like it to appear in the official List of Participants. Please clearly identify the head of delegation. To avoid delays, I would kindly request delegations to register **no later than Friday 23 November 2018**.

Participants already in possession of a UNOG security badge can proceed directly to the meeting room. Participants who do not already have UNOG security badges need to register online at <https://reg.unog.ch/event/18940> and follow the process described. Such participants will be able to collect their security badge at the Pass and Identification Unit at the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations from 12:00 on Friday 30 November 2018, or from 08:00 on Monday 3 December. Participants are advised to come to the Pregny Gate well in advance to allow enough time for security checks.

States Parties intending to submit working papers to the Meeting of States Parties are encouraged to do so by **16 November 2018** in order that the documents are processed and made available to all participants in good time. Such documents should be submitted to the Implementation Support Unit in Microsoft Word format to bwc@un.org. Any State wishing to organize a side event during the Meeting of States Parties should contact the Implementation Support Unit to discuss the details.

Detailed information on the arrangements for the Meeting of States Parties is provided in the attached Aide-Mémoire. Please review this document carefully prior to registration. Further information and official documents for the Meeting of States Parties can be obtained on the BWC website, <http://www.unog.ch/bwc/meeting>

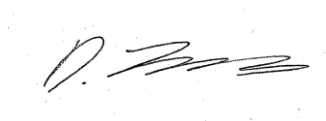
The BWC Sponsorship Programme

Applications for sponsorship for the Meeting of States Parties are now open. The Sponsorship Programme was established to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in BWC meetings. The Seventh Review Conference affirmed that “Priority for sponsorship will be given to those States Parties which have previously not participated in the meetings, or have been unable to regularly send experts from capital.” Sponsorship may also be provided, depending on the availability of resources, to enhance participation of States not party in order to promote universalization of the Convention. The 2017 Meeting of States Parties added that “Maximum use would be made of the Sponsorship Programme” during the 2018-2020 intersessional programme. More information about the Sponsorship Programme is available at www.unog.ch/bwc/sponsorship

As funding is limited, it is likely that not all applications will be able to be supported. The Sponsorship Programme will be administered by the Implementation Support Unit in consultation with the office-holders of the 2018 BWC meetings, and is funded through voluntary contributions from States Parties. The Implementation Support Unit would like to thank those States Parties which have already provided, or pledged to provide, voluntary contributions to the Sponsorship Programme, and would like to encourage others to also consider making voluntary contributions. Applications for sponsorship for the Meeting of States Parties must be submitted to the Implementation Support Unit by using the form available on the webpage given above not later than **2 November 2018**. Applications must be endorsed by the applicant’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Permanent Mission. Applicants should be working on issues related to the BWC and should be prepared to participate actively in the Meeting of States Parties.

Any queries about the practical arrangements for the Meeting of States Parties or the Sponsorship Programme can be directed to me at tel: 022 917 2230, fax: 022 917 0483, or e-mail: bwc@un.org

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



Daniel Feakes
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit

Attachment:

- 1) Aide-Mémoire for participants from States Parties, Signatory States, Observer States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.