

**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, 4-8 December 2017

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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

5 September 2017

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION 2017 MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

Excellency,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). I would like to begin by thanking you for the confidence you have expressed in supporting my appointment as Chairman. I am also privileged to enjoy the support of our two distinguished Vice-chairs, Ambassador Michael Biontino of Germany and Ambassador Juraj Podhorský of Slovakia. I look forward to working closely with them throughout the remainder of the year.

As you will recall, the Eighth Review Conference decided that “States Parties will hold annual meetings” for the intersessional period from 2017-2020. Further, the 2017 MSP was mandated to “seek to make progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an intersessional process.”

The meeting will take place here in Geneva from 4 to 8 December 2017.

Given that only a few months remain until the opening of the MSP, I would like to begin consultations on preparations for the meeting as soon as possible. Accordingly, I would be available to meet with the regional groups in mid-September and I will be in contact with the regional group coordinators in the coming days in this regard. I hope that following informal consultations and a round of regional group briefings, I would have heard the views of all interested delegations which in turn would give me a good sense of how preparations could be taken forward.

This is a collaborative process and I therefore rely on your advice and support. I welcome all ideas and feedback you may have on any aspect of our work. I can be contacted by e-mail at prcd.geneva@mea.gov.in, or else through the ISU or the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament.

While I propose to consult the regional groups for an initial exchange of views in mid-September, please do not hesitate to contact me before then if you feel that is necessary.

I look forward to working closely with you in pursuit of our shared objective of strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "amandeep" in a cursive style, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Amandeep Singh Gill
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of
India to the Conference on Disarmament
Chairman of the BWC Meeting of States
Parties