

**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**

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To the Permanent Representatives 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

23 May 2019

**BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
UPDATE OF BWC NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS (NCPs)**

Excellency,

The Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which took place in 2006, decided that each State Party should designate a national contact point (NCP) for:

- Coordinating national implementation of the Convention and communicating with other States Parties and relevant international organizations;
- Preparing the submission of confidence-building measures; and
- Facilitating information exchange of universalization efforts.

The Conference requested States Parties to inform the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the details of their designated NCPs.

As mandated by the Conference, since 2007 the ISU has continued to collect and update details of NCPs. As of 23 May 2019, 118 States Parties had nominated a national contact point. In addition, two signatory States, three States not party and one regional organization have also provided points of contact. The information provided by States Parties on their NCPs is available in full on the [restricted area](#) of the BWC website. Each State Party has received a confidential username and password to access the restricted area. If the password or username have been mislaid or forgotten, please contact the ISU.

NCPs receive all official communications from the ISU and BWC office-holders. The ISU also maintains regular bilateral contact with NCPs for specific issues related to the implementation of the Convention. Most NCPs regularly participate in BWC meetings in Geneva, where direct interaction with the ISU, the BWC office-holders and other States Parties takes place. NCPs also receive invitations to relevant workshops and other events that take place in their regions. Whenever funds are available, NCPs from developing States Parties are provided with the opportunity to participate in BWC official meetings under the BWC sponsorship programme.

During these interactions, the ISU has frequently noted that the information that it holds on NCPs is in some cases no longer accurate and needs to be updated. In many cases, the information was provided many years ago and so the official identified is no longer in the same position, or the contact details provided for a particular office are no longer valid.

Given the important role assigned to NCPs by the Sixth Review Conference, the ISU is therefore initiating an update to ensure the accuracy of the information that it holds on NCPs.

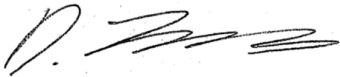
We would be grateful if your government could check the information related to your NCP. The full list of the NCP data provided by States Parties to the ISU is attached to this letter (Annex I). Please could you review the information for your country. If the information provided needs to be corrected, please provide the new details to the ISU **by 30 June 2019**. If the information is still valid, there is no need to inform the ISU and we will continue to use the same information.

If your government has not yet nominated an NCP, I would like to encourage you to consider doing so now. The NCP can be a specific person identified by name, or alternatively it could be an office or a function (e.g. "Director, WMD Section"), which may be more convenient if staff changes occur regularly. It is also possible to nominate more than one NCP. Given that most communication is done electronically, it is very important to provide an e-mail address which will be checked regularly.

Please use the attached form (Annex II) to provide information which needs to be updated, or new information if an NCP has not previously been designated, and return it by e-mail to bwc@un.org. The attached form is also available [online](#).

For any specific questions related to NCPs, the ISU remains at your disposal.

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



Daniel Feakes
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit

Annex I: List of BWC national contact points
Annex II: NCP nomination form