

FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE 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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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON COMPLIANCE BY
STATES PARTIES WITH ALL THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 21 of its report (BWC/CONF.IV/1), the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction decided to request the Secretariat to compile a background information document on compliance by States Parties with all their obligations under the Convention. The Preparatory Committee, furthermore, decided that for the purpose of preparing this document, the Secretariat would request States Parties to provide information regarding compliance with all the provisions of the Convention.
2. The present document contains the information provided by States Parties to the Secretariat, as of 21 November 1996, pursuant to paragraph 21 of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

South Africa

South Africa ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BTWC), on 3 November 1975. As a committed State Party, South Africa is in full compliance with all its obligations under the Convention.

The Convention is implemented in South Africa by the South African Council for Non-Proliferation (NPC) in terms of the Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act (Act 87 of 1993). This Act provides the necessary legal framework for the implementation, within South Africa, of the BTWC and all other non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control obligations which arise out of the South African Government's policy on non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control.

Since April 1993 South Africa has participated in the exchange of information and data as agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, and provides such information and data in conformity with the standardized procedure to the United Nations Secretary-General on an annual basis and not later than 15 April of each year in terms of resolution 46/35 A entitled "Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction". South Africa's participation in the BTWC "Confidence Building Measures" is administered by the NPC and submitted through the South African Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

South Africa actively participates in the work of the Ad Hoc Group 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 and fully supports the intensification of its work with a view to completing a legally-binding instrument to strengthen the Convention, as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference.

Sweden

Sweden is in full compliance with all the provisions of the Convention. In 1970, the Swedish Government declared that Sweden does not possess and does not intend to acquire biological or chemical weapons. This declaration retains its full validity. No ongoing national activity is in non-compliance with the provisions of the Convention, which Sweden signed on 27 February 1976.

Since the last Review Conference the following Swedish laws with relevance for the Convention have been passed:

The Military Equipment Act and the Military Equipment Ordinance, both from 1992.

The Act on Strategic Products from 1995 and the Ordinance on Strategic Products from 1994.

Sweden has, from the very beginning, considered the provisions for verification regarding the Convention to be insufficient and a serious shortcoming. The Swedish Government has, for many years, given the highest priority to the establishment of a verification regime for the Convention. The VEREX work and the Special Conference were important steps towards reaching this goal. The work of the present Ad Hoc Group has made significant progress in elaborating a verification protocol but has due to lack of time allocated to this work not been able to finalize its work in time for the Fourth Review Conference. It is necessary to intensify this work to establish a verification protocol as soon as possible but no later than mid-1998.

During the last years facts relevant to the Convention have gained world attention in connection with implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 685 and 715 which have given valuable experience of verification in the biological area. Sweden has lent continuous support to UNSCOM for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Sweden remains concerned with reports as to the lack of compliance of other parties with the provision of the Convention.

With regard to the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) agreed upon at the Third Review Conference Sweden has annually supplied information. The results of the information exchange so far have not been satisfactory as many States Parties have not yet participated.

Sweden has also been active in the elaboration and finalizing of the Chemical Weapons Convention and ratified it on 17 June 1993.

With regard to article X of the Convention, Sweden has, during the period of review, participated in various international efforts to facilitate the free exchange of information on the peaceful uses of biotechnology and microbiology. Sweden is sponsoring biotechnology research and cooperation in several developing countries and this is focused on efforts to improve agricultural production and health care. Through international organizations such as WHO, FAO and UNESCO, Sweden also takes part in international programmes in these areas. Sweden has participated in a number of international conferences with the aim of identifying problems of developing countries and on providing solutions based on biotechnology. Sweden also regularly organizes The International Symposium on Protection Against Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents with relevance for the Convention.

Turkey

RESEARCH RELATED TO BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AGENTS AND TOXINS IN TURKEY

I. Ataturk University. Faculty of Agriculture. Food Engineering Division - Erzurum

1. Toxin research in dairy products and animal feed.
2. Aflatoxin production in salami, sausage, sucuk.

II. Karadeniz (Black Sea) Technical University. School of
Medicine - Trabzon

1. Virus isolation (Herpes Simplex virus. Influenza virus) by cell-culture method from various clinical materials.

III. Ege (Aegean) University. Faculty of Agriculture - Izmir

1. Aflatoxin production in dry fig.
2. Investigation of a great number of Actinomyces isolates and their antagonistic effects against soil born fungal plant pathogens toxins.

IV. Selcuk University. Veterinary Faculty - Konva

1. Two different vaccine productions for weaned calf Pasteurellosis.
2. Aflatoxin isolation and purification of A parasiticus NHRL 2999 by fermentation method.
3. Aflatoxin production in rice.
4. Aflatoxin production in rice, corn, wheat, peanut.
5. The effects of aflatoxin + absorban (Mycofix Plus) to hematological and serum biochemical parameters in broiler chicks feed.
6. The production of mycotoxin of zearalenon in feed by High Liquid performance chromatographic method.

V. Istanbul University. Veterinary Faculty

1. Aflatoxin products in food by TLC and HPLC.

VI. Cukurova University. Faculty of Agriculture. Zootechnolocrv
Division - Adana

1. AFB1 analysis in animal feed in Cukurova region.
2. Aflatoxins and the chemicals used for their detoxification.
3. The pathological changes in different organs of rabbits feed by AFB1-nutrients.

VII. Ministry of Health. Ankara Refik Savdam Hygiene Center

1. Collection of bacterial and fungal cultures (Bacillus anthracis, Legionella pneumophila, Yersinia pestis. Burkholderia mallei, Francisella tularensis, Cryptococcus neoformans).
2. Legionella isolation in water samples.
3. Virus isolation (coxsackie virus) in tissue culture.

VIII. Ministry of Agriculture. Pendik Veterinary Control and Research
Institute

1. The presence of biological agents and their toxins in animal feed by bacteriological, virological, parasitological, histopathological, serological methods.
2. The diagnosis of the illness by showing the presence and amount of mycotoxins.
3. The diagnosis of the illness by showing the presence and amount of bacterial toxins.
4. Vaccine production, standard serum and toxin production.

Ix- Ministry of Agriculture. Foot and Mouth Disease Institute - Ankara

1. Foot and mouth disease, its virus culture, vaccine production.

X- Ministry of Agriculture. Ankara-Etlik Veterinary Control and
Research Institute

1. Yersinia pestis. Bacillus antracis vaccine production.

United States of America

In cooperation with this request, the United States wishes to confirm to States parties, through the Secretariat, that the United States is in full compliance with its obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention. In 1969, in an action separate from the then ongoing negotiations, the United States unilaterally renounced all methods of biological warfare and directed destruction of its stocks of biological agents, toxins and weapons. Since that time the United States has conducted only activities consistent with those permitted under Article I of the Convention and which are reported annually to the United States Congress, and are the subject of detailed public environmental impact statements. Further, in support of its obligations, the United States submits annually to the United Nations Secretariat data declarations under the Confidence-Building Measures adopted at the Third Review Conference.