

Working paper submitted by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay

(unofficial translation)

### **Follow-up Mechanism**

Although the *ad hoc* mechanism, adopted for use in the period between the Fifth and Sixth Review Conferences of the Biological Weapons Convention, was useful for exchanging information and experiences on certain aspects, it was limited in its scope for examining the full implementation of the Convention's obligations.

With this in mind, this paper proposes that the Review Conference establish an *ad hoc* and flexible mechanism for the period between the Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences of the Biological Weapons Convention. This mechanism would:

- **Sustain** annual meetings of the group of governmental experts (1 week) and of States Parties (2 weeks);
- **Analyze**, during meetings of the group of governmental experts, developments in the fields of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other related areas that may have an impact on the work of the Biological Weapons Convention;
- **Examine**, at the meetings of States Parties, the preamble as well as the operative section of the Biological Weapons Convention in a systematic way, as well as the work of the preceding meeting of the group of governmental experts.
- **Define** the subjects of the following meeting of governmental experts;
- **Debate**, at the first meeting of government experts, the following subjects: ...;
- **Have**, during the meetings of States Parties, the capacity to adopt decisions on matters pertaining to the Biological Weapons Convention; and
- **Facilitate** its work through the use of the Support Unit.