



Joint Declaration

Preparatory Committee for the Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of bacteriologic (biological) and toxin weapons and their destruction. (26- 28 april 2006).

The delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

1. - Reaffirm their commitment with the principles and objectives of the Convention not to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain biological and toxin weapons.
2. - Consider the Convention as the central pillar of the regime to prohibit biological and toxin weapons.
3. - Declare their intention to contribute to the success of the BWC Sixth Review Conference.
4. - Express their intention to examine measures that will reinforce the BWC in all its aspects, but in particular matters related to compliance, verification and the peaceful uses of biology for economic and technological development.
5. - Recall the Declaration on Security in the Americas, approved at the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico City in October 2003, as well as Resolution 2107 of the General Assembly of the OAS, approved on June 7 2005, to fulfill concretely the shared commitment of member states to make the Americas a region free of biological and chemical weapons.
6. - Also recall the Declaration on a South American Peace Zone, approved on July 27 2002, by which the Heads of States express their commitment to the prohibition of positioning, developing, producing, possessing, deploying, experimenting or using any type of weapon of mass destruction, including biological and toxin weapons, as well as their transit thru countries of the region, in accordance with international law on the matter.
7. - Reiterate the importance of the UN Security Council resolution 1540, in the context of the multilateral regimes to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
8. - Emphasize the importance of the universalization and the withdrawal of all reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol.
9. - Underline the importance of the universalization of the BWC and its full implementation. Both objectives require a constant effort.
10. - Share the view of the importance to provide the BWC with an adequate verification mechanism. In this regard, we are willing to develop with other delegations an incremental approach.

11. - Stress the importance of the ample participation of civil society, the private sector, the scientific community and pertinent international organizations in the work of the BWC.

12. - Urge States Parties to create a context of mutual confidence that will improve and increase, quantitative and qualitatively, scientific cooperation as well as the transfer of technology.

13. - Propose that States Parties establish, during the Sixth Review Conference, an intersessional mechanism with a new, comprehensive and thematically structured mandate that will lead to the elaboration of recommendations and the adoption of concrete decisions.

14. - Express their commitment to present concrete proposals to the consideration of States Parties to the Sixth Review Conference, to be held in Geneva at the end of the year.

Geneva, 26 April 2006

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