

5. Documents from Regions, Regional Organizations and Other Organizations

At a most basic level, regional organizations play an important role in providing states with a forum for consultation on political and security issues in a regional context. These consultations have led, for example, to specific agreements that proclaim the region free of a particular category of weapon or a WMD-free zone, or that implement regional strategies to prevent the proliferation of WMD in general, and BW issues specifically.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations / ASEAN Regional Forum

As part of its commitment to promote regional peace and stability, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) established the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in 1994. The 28 current participants in the ARF are: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, United States, and Viet Nam.

The ARF agenda consists of two broad objectives: first, to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interest and concern and, second, to contribute to efforts towards confidence building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. This agenda aims to evolve in three broad stages, namely the promotion of confidence building, development of preventive diplomacy and elaboration of approaches to conflicts and as part of that the ARF countries agreed a non-proliferation statement in 2004.

Issues relevant to the Convention and the broader regime to control biological weapons are regularly aired at ARF meetings, whether at Ministerial level or in one of the many subsidiary bodies established by the ARF to consider particular issues.

This section of the Briefing Book includes a copy of the Co-Chairs' Summary Report from the Workshop on Biorisk Management held in Manila, Philippines, during September 2010, an extract from the Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the Third ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Nonproliferation and Disarmament held in Las Vegas, USA, during February 2011, and an extract from the Chair's Statement, 18th ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia in July 2011.

European Union

Established in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome, the European Union (EU) currently has 25 Member States. A further two States are due to be admitted in January 2007. While the EU has always had an interest in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, especially since the adoption of its Common Foreign and Security Policy in the early 1990s, its involvement has recently become much more intensive and pro-active. Towards the end of 2003, the EU adopted a Strategy Against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction at the highest political level. Also in 2003, the EU appointed its first Personal Representative of the High Representative on Non-Proliferation of WMD, Annalisa Giannella of Italy, who is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the strategy and for preparing six-monthly progress reports. More EU documents related to CBW are available at <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eeas/foreign-policy/non-proliferation,-disarmament-and-export-control-/documentation/documents.aspx?lang=en>. Since the setting of strategic

priorities in 2003, the EU has focused on more practical activities. In November 2003, the Council of the European Union adopted Common Position 2003/805/CFSP on the universalisation and reinforcement of multilateral WMD agreements which called for all states to join the BWC and committed EU Member States to strengthened national implementation measures. In November 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/858/CFSP in support of the BWC. Under this Joint Action, the EU has committed €1,400,000 over 2 years and 9 months for activities to promote universalisation of the BWC, assist States Parties with the national implementation of the BWC, promote the submission of confidence-building measures declarations on a regular basis by States parties and support the BWC Inter-Sessional Process. In 2008 the Council passed Joint Action 2008/307/CFSP in support of World Health Organisation activities in the area of laboratory bio-safety and biosecurity. Under this Joint Action, the EU has committed €2,105,000 over 2 years for activities relating to the safety and security of microbial or other biological agents and toxins in laboratories and other facilities, including during transportation as appropriate, in order to prevent unauthorised access to and removal of such agents and toxins.

In July 2011 the Council adopted decision 2011/429/CFSP which sets out the EU's objectives for the Seventh BWC Review Conference.

This section of the Briefing Book includes a copy of the 2003 Common Position, the 2008 Joint Action in support of WHO activities, the 2008 Joint Action Plan in support of the BWC and the 2011 Council decision relating to the Seventh BWC Review Conference.

The Member States of the European Union have collectively introduced a number of working papers to past Review Conferences as well as to inter-sessional meetings. These papers are available from the ISU website.

Latin America

In September 1991 in Mendoza, Argentina, the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Chile jointly signed the Declaration of Mendoza which committed the three countries not to “develop, produce or acquire in any way, stockpile or retain, transfer directly or indirectly, and not to use chemical or biological arms.” The Declaration was agreed in the context of the negotiation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and is primarily concerned with supporting the negotiation but, in its preambular determination to “consolidate the region as an area of peace and cooperation, free from the scourge of these weapons of mass destruction”, it can be seen as a precursor of later declarations by the Organization of American States. The Declaration was subsequently also signed by Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay. A copy of the declaration is included in this section of the Briefing Book.

In December 1991, the leaders of the Andean Group countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) signed a Declaration on Renunciation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Cartagena des Indias. The declaration obliged its signatories not to produce, develop, use, test and transfer weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, biological, toxin or chemical weapons, and to refrain from storing, acquiring or holding such weapons. Regarding the BWC specifically, the Declaration states: “They express support for the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as the negotiations aimed at strengthening its verification machinery.” Like the slightly earlier Mendoza Declaration, the Cartagena Declaration states the goal of “the transformation of Latin America and the Caribbean into the first inhabited area of the planet which is free of weapons of mass destruction”. A copy of the declaration is included in this section of the Briefing Book.

In the 2006 Review Conference, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay submitted joint working papers

on universalization, Article X, a new inter-sessional process, Confidence-Building Measures and a support unit. These papers are available from the ISU website.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

The first conference of non-aligned heads of state was held in Belgrade in September 1961. At the time of the Ministerial meeting in May 2011, the Non-Aligned Movement had some 120 Member States. Summit meetings of NAM heads of state are held normally every three years and there have been fifteen to date with the most recent being held in Egypt in July 2009. After each summit, the host country becomes chair of the NAM until the next summit meeting, so Egypt is the current chair of the NAM. As Egypt is not a State Party to the BWC, Cuba has been fulfilling the co-ordination role at BWC meetings. Iran will take over as NAM Convenor in 2012. This section of the Briefing Book contains extracts from the 2009 NAM summit declaration relating to the BWC and from the Ministerial meeting in Bali in May 2011.

A particular focus of attention by NAM states at the BWC has been Article X of the Convention which relates to peaceful uses of the life sciences. In 2009 Cuba, on behalf of the NAM BWC States Parties, introduced a working paper entitled *The Establishment of a Mechanism for the Full Implementation of Article X of the Convention* to the Meeting of Experts that year. A copy of the paper is included in this section of the Briefing Book.

The members of the NAM have also introduced further joint working papers to past Review Conferences as well as to inter-sessional meetings on additional subjects such as capacity building. These papers are available from the ISU website.

Organization of American States

The Organization of American States (OAS) brings together 35 independent countries to strengthen cooperation and advance common interests in the Western Hemisphere¹. In addition OAS has granted permanent observer status to 62 states as well as the European Union.

At the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, in 1998 the Heads of State and Government decided to promote regional dialogue taking into account the new post Cold War political, economic, social, and strategic-military factors with a view to revitalizing and strengthening the institutions of the Inter-American system.

One result of this regional dialogue was momentum to make the region a chemical and biological weapons-free zone, building on earlier commitments in the Mendoza and Cartagena Declarations of 1991. In October 2003, a Special Conference in Mexico City adopted the "Declaration on Security in the Americas" which represented a new approach to hemispheric security taking into account the impact of globalization and other changes in the region. The Declaration emphasized the commitment of all states in the region to the BWC and to its full implementation. It additionally declared as an objective of the OAS making the Americas a region free of chemical and biological weapons. This latter objective was put into effect by a resolution of the 34th OAS General Assembly in Quito in 2004 in which OAS Member States resolved to "concretely fulfill the shared commitment of member states to

¹ On June 3, 2009, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas adopted Resolution AG/RES.2438 (XXXIX-O/09) which resolves that the 1962 Resolution that excluded the Government of Cuba from its participation in the Inter-American system, ceases to have effect in the Organization of American States (OAS). The 2009 resolution states that the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS will be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS.

make the Americas a region free of biological and chemical weapons.” A copy of the resolution is included in this section of the Briefing Book.

Regional and Other Seminars and Events

Following on from the regional workshops organized jointly by Australia and Indonesia in 2005 and 2006 (the summaries of proceedings of which were provided in the 2006 Briefing Book) there have been a number of regional activities in the form of seminars and workshops. Some regional activities have been funded by external actors, such as under the EU Joint Actions. Of particular note are two events organized jointly by Indonesia and Norway in 2008 and 2009. The first of these was a seminar on promoting and implementing biosafety and biosecurity and the second was a workshop on capacity building in health security. Summaries from both of these are included in this section.

In the run-up to the Seventh Review Conference, there have been a number of events held across the world to help develop thinking towards what might be expected from the Conference. These were Wilton Park, UK, September 2010; Beijing, China, November 2010 (this event followed directly on from a science and technology conference held in the city and which is summarized in a paper in section 2); Montreux, Switzerland, April 2011; Berlin, Germany, June 2011; Manila, Philippines, June-July 2011 (this event was held the same week as other BWC-related activities in the same city); and a conference organized by Wilton Park, but held in the Hague, the Netherlands, September 2011. Summaries from all of these are included in this section.