

Briefing Book

This Briefing Book is intended to aid delegates to the Seventh Review Conference of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and thus contribute to a constructive and successful outcome. The conference will be held 5-22 December 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

This book contains official documents and other texts relating to the regime to control biological weapons, including:

- official BWC documents (such as the Final Documents from the six earlier Review Conferences);
- documents from the United Nations, other international organizations and regional organizations;
- documents from informal instruments and arrangements; and
- summaries from a variety of seminars and workshops held in the run-up to the Review Conference.

It should also be a useful resource for researchers, non-governmental organizations, journalists and others in civil society with an interest in the control of biological weapons regime in general and the BWC in particular.

This Briefing Book is available from the website <http://www.bwc2011.info>. Whilst the documents in the hard copy version of this Briefing Book are in English, the electronic version also contains, where readily available, the documents in their official translations into the five other UN languages.

The Briefing Book has been prepared by Caitríona McLeish of the Harvard Sussex Program and Richard Guthrie of CBW Events. Financial support has been provided by the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Harvard Sussex Program is an inter-university collaboration for research, communication and training in support of informed public policy towards chemical and biological weapons. The Program links research groups at Harvard University in the United States and the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom. It began formally in 1990, building on two decades of earlier collaboration between its co-directors.

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CBW Events is a long-term project, inaugurated in 2007 to record significant events, both large and small, relating to preparation for or prevention of chemical and biological warfare. These primary areas of work are supplemented by a number of contemporary activities, notably analysis and reporting on significant events in the development of CBW policy. www.cbw-events.org.uk