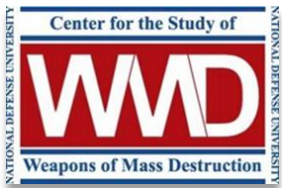


2016 Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference: Picking Up the Pieces

OUTCOMES AND AREAS FOR FUTURE WORK



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2017 ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional Meeting on
Nonproliferation and Disarmament
8-9 March 2017



Outcomes of the Eighth BWC Review Conference

- Goal of many delegations: Establish a stronger intersessional program for the next five years
 - Provide additional meeting time for substantive discussions
 - Revise meeting structure to accommodate more focused discussion and more input from experts
 - Provide clear decision-making authority for annual Meeting of States Parties on some issues
- Did not reach agreement on a work plan for the period before the next Review Conference (2021)
- Did not agree on additional understandings of the Convention and its obligations
- Agreed to hold a meeting in December 2017 to attempt to find consensus on an intersessional process

What does this outcome mean?

- Does *not* mean that the BWC has collapsed or diminished in relevance
- Does *not* mean that the nonproliferation regime is in jeopardy
- Does *not* mean that an intersessional process before the next Review Conference is impossible
- But *does* mean that significant political will and effort are required to make substantive process over the next five years



Where do we go from here?

- Try to work outside the BWC – Work will continue even without a formal intersessional program
 - Planning for meetings already underway
- Try to come up with a new ISP
 - Package of decisions for a substantive ISP at the end of the Review Conference could be starting point – support from a wide range of delegations
 - Language in Final Document on Article VII assistance and protection – but need a work program to turn it into concrete outcomes
- Try to prepare for next Review Conference – no need to hold off that long on everything, but can start some of the debates now