

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

(unofficial translation)

The Support Facility

A support mechanism is needed to assist States Parties with the task of preparing Review Conferences of the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention).

With this perspective, the Review Conference is invited to create a Support Facility, whose main functions will be:

- To analyze information received from the States Parties' Confidence-building measure (CBM) reports;
- To provide assistance to States Parties for submitting CBM reports, when requested;
- To provide assistance to States Parties to adopt domestic legislation, when requested;
- To develop a database on national standards and legislation related to topics of the Convention;
- To create a mechanism for the management of confidential information;
- To prepare documentation for meetings related to the Convention;
- To provide advice on technical and procedural issues to the Chairman and the States Parties at the meetings of the Convention.
- To carry out actions aimed at promoting universalization;
- To facilitate the linkage between States Parties and depositaries, international organizations, scientific and academic institutions, as well as non governmental organizations; and
- To maintain and update the website of the Biological Weapons Convention.