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FAX TRANSMISSION

Date: 15 January 2015

To: Permanent Representatives of the States Parties
to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological)
and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

Fax:

From: Daniel Feakes
Chief, Biological Weapons Convention Implementation
Support Unit

Pages (including cover sheet): 3

**SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: CONFIDENCE-BUILDING
MEASURES**

Excellency,

It is a pleasure to forward to you in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) the attached reminder letter that the deadline for the submission of CBMs to cover 2014 is **15 April 2015**.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of several other developments relating to the BWC. I have sent an identical list of developments to designated National Points of Contact:

- As of 28 November 2014, I have taken over as Chief of Unit of the ISU, replacing Richard Lennane in that function. I can be contacted on dfeakes@unog.ch or +41 22 917 2230.
- The Meeting of States Parties in December 2014 decided that the Meeting of Experts would take place from 10-14 August 2015 and that the Meeting of States Parties would take place from 14-18 December 2015. Ambassador Mazlan Muhammad of Malaysia will be the Chairman of the BWC meetings in 2015.
- The ISU has recently revised the pages on the BWC website having to do with universalization of the Convention. These pages now contain more detailed practical information on steps which States need to take in order to join the BWC. Please feel free to use these pages in contacts you may have with States not party. The ISU will be making further changes to the website in the near future to make it an even more useful resource for BWC implementation.
- The Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences encouraged States Parties to designate national points of contact and to inform the ISU of their details. A form for designating new points of contact is on the BWC website. Please also use this form to provide

- updated contact information to the ISU if personnel changes have occurred.
- The Seventh Review Conference decided to establish a database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties. The ISU administers this database which is accessible via the restricted area of the BWC website. As agreed at the 2014 Meeting of States Parties, the database will shortly be featured more prominently on the BWC website.
 - In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference, the ISU administers a sponsorship programme in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme. More information about the sponsorship programme can be found on the BWC website. Applications for sponsorship at the Meeting of Experts in August 2015 should be submitted by 8 May 2015. States parties in a position to do so are encouraged to support the sponsorship programme through voluntary contributions.

Finally, I would like to inform you that 2015 sees the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the BWC on 26 March. The anniversary can serve as an opportunity to raise awareness about the BWC. Some events to mark the occasion are being planned and the ISU will shortly create a webpage about the anniversary. If you are aware of any national events being planned, please feel free to share any details with the ISU for posting on the webpage.

I look forward to working with you all to support the implementation of the BWC.



Daniel Feakes
Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit