



***Special Representation of Brazil to the
Conference on Disarmament***

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Geneva, August 7th 2018.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the 2018 BWC Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention (MX2). I would like to express my appreciation to delegations for their support for my nomination as Chair of MX2.

As my nomination has only just been confirmed, I have unfortunately not had the time to discuss and consult as I would have wished in advance of the opening of MX2 on 9 August. However, I am reassured to see that a number of working papers have been submitted by States Parties for MX2, along with the background paper submitted by the Implementation Support Unit which includes useful compilations of reference materials in its annexes (see document [BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/2](#)).

In addition, my colleagues serving as Chairs of the four other Meetings of Experts, along with the Chair of the Meeting of States Parties, have already consulted extensively on the general preparations and approach to be taken at the Meetings of Experts. Therefore, I believe that we will be able to have a productive discussion during MX2 on Thursday and Friday.

A draft of the provisional agenda of MX2 was circulated to you all annexed to the joint letter of 14 June. The formal version of the provisional agenda will now be issued as BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/1. As with the agendas for the other Meetings of Experts, it includes all the topics identified for MX2 by States Parties in the final report of the MSP in December 2017 ([BWC/MSP/2017/6](#)).

As the Chairs of the other Meetings of Experts have done, I have also prepared an annotated programme of work to give some structure to our discussions in MX2. The first

version is attached to this letter, and further updates will be issued as and when necessary. I hope that you find this useful while making your preparations for MX2. Also in line with the other Meetings of Experts, I suggest that MX2 observes a rolling agenda that will allow us to pass on to the next item as soon as discussions on the previous one are exhausted.

Several States Parties have submitted working papers for MX2, and I will call upon those delegations to present their papers under the appropriate item of our agenda. Delegations with experts intending to give PowerPoint presentations are kindly requested to contact the ISU as early as possible to make sure the technical preparations can be made in good time without disrupting our proceedings. All participating States Parties are of course welcome to intervene under any agenda item, whether or not they have submitted a working paper.

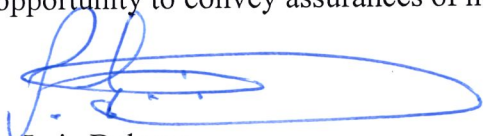
Following practice from previous Meetings of Experts, and given the nature of the topics selected for consideration by MX2, I intend to invite some "Guests of the Meeting" to help us in our consideration of the topics on the provisional agenda. I currently intend to invite the following:

- Professor Michael Imperiale, University of Michigan
- Professor Weiwen Zhang, Tianjin University

In addition, I will call on international organizations participating in MX2 to provide input to our discussions where appropriate.

I want to encourage an interactive expert-level discussion of the items on our agenda. I am aware that many experts will be attending MX2 and I hope that they participate actively in our discussions. Delegations should be prepared to pose and respond to questions so that we can engage in a truly substantive consideration of the issues before us.

I look forward to facilitating an engaging and constructive meeting of experts and take this opportunity to convey assurances of my highest regard.



Pedro Luiz Dalcero
Minister Counsellor
Special Representation of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament

Biological Weapons Convention

Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention (MX2)¹

9-10 August 2018

Day	Session
Thu, 09 Aug	AM (10:00 – 13:00)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by the Chair, Mr. Pedro Luiz Dalcero of Brazil 2. <u>Adoption of the agenda</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/1 3. <u>Adoption of the rules of procedure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/CONF.VIII/2 4. <u>Review of science and technology developments relevant to the Convention, including for the enhanced implementation of all articles of the Convention as well as the identification of potential benefits and risks of new science and technology developments relevant to the Convention, with a particular attention to positive implications</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/2 – Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.5 - Recent Advances in Gene Editing and Synthesis Technologies and their Implications – Submitted by the United States of America
	PM (15:00 – 18:00)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <u>Biological risk assessment and management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Japan 6. <u>Development of a voluntary model code of conduct for biological scientists and all relevant personnel, and biosecurity education, by drawing on the work already done on this issue in the context of the Convention, adaptable to national requirements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.1 - Germany's best practice in handling (bio)security-relevant research: Self-governance organized by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the German Research Foundation (DFG) - Submitted by Germany • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.9 - Proposal for the development of a model code of conduct for biological scientists under the Biological Weapons Convention – Submitted by China and Pakistan

¹ This is an indicative listing and will be updated as additional working papers are submitted. States Parties can of course request to take the floor under any agenda item. Those wishing to do so, particularly if intending to deliver a technical presentation, should contact the ISU as soon as possible so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical briefing by UNICRI on the International Network on Biotechnology
Fri, 10 Aug	<p>AM (10:00 – 13:00)</p> <p>7. <u>Genome editing, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the issues identified above</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.2 - Technical Working Paper on Genome Editing and Other Scientific and Technological Developments of Relevance to the Convention - Submitted by Switzerland • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.3 - Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention - Genome editing – Submitted by Australia • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.4 - Genome editing: addressing implications for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.6 - Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention - Genome Editing – Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran <p>PM (15:00 – 18:00)</p> <p>8. <u>Any other science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention and also to the activities of relevant multilateral organizations such as the WHO, OIE, FAO, IPPC and OPCW</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.7 - Report of the Scientific Advisory Board on Developments in Science and Technology for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention – Submitted by the OPCW • BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.8 - Response by the Director-General to the Report of the Scientific Advisory Board on Developments in Science and Technology for the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention – Submitted by the OPCW • Technical briefing by WHO • Technical briefing by OIE • Technical briefing by 1540 Committee <p>9. <u>Adoption of the factual report reflecting the deliberations of the Meeting, including possible outcomes</u></p> <p>10. <u>Closing of the Meeting</u></p>