

ARTICLE XV: DEPOSITS OF THE CONVENTION

by Graham S Pearson

Consideration of Article XV at the Fourth Review Conference

1. Article XV of the Convention states that:

This Convention , the English, Russian, French, Spanish and Chinese texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of the Convention shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

2. At the Fourth Review Conference of the BTWC held on 25 November to 6 December 1996, the Final Declaration¹ in respect of Article XV stated that:

The Conference notes the importance of this Article as well as the importance of the legal status of the languages of the Convention and United Nations system in the work of the Ad Hoc Group established by the Special Conference in 1994.

which had been a further development from the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference² which had simply noted the provisions of Article XV.

Developments since the Fourth Review Conference

3. As there have been no developments in respect of Article XV since the Fourth Review Conference and because there is currently no agreement on the work of the Ad Hoc Group, it is suggested that the Fifth Review Conference should adopt similar language to that in the first clause only on Article XV in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference:

The Conference notes the importance of this Article.

¹United Nations, *The Fourth Review Conference 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*, Geneva, 25 November - 6 December 1996, BWC/CONF.IV/9, Geneva 1996.

² United Nations, *The Third Review Conference 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*, Geneva, 9–27 September 1991, BWC/CONF.III/23, Geneva 1992.