This is a proposal for the production by civil society groups of a resource guide/briefing book to facilitate preparations for the 6th BWC review conference. The proposal draws on precedents from other international diplomatic conferences, principally the review conferences of the NPT.

**Precedents**

Prior to the 7th NPT review conference earlier this year, the Arms Control Association and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom published *Major Proposals to Strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty: A Resource Guide* (see http://www.armscontrol.org/pdf/NPTRevConf2005_MajorProposals.pdf*). In the foreword to the guide, ACA director Darryl Kimball writes: “Our hope is that the Resource Guide will serve as a starting point for those who are trying to learn more about the nuclear weapons dilemma, a quick-guide to reporters and researchers covering the topic, as well as a practical tool for those diplomats and policymakers charged with helping to advance the cause of nuclear nonproliferation, disarmament, and global security.”

Another example is the briefing book which the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies and the Center for Nonproliferation Studies produces prior to NPT review conference meetings (see <http://www.mcis.soton.ac.uk/towards2005npt.html>). The MCIS website describes the April 2005 briefing book as follows: “The NPT Briefing Book (April 2005 Edition) is comprised of two parts. Part I contains introductory background information on the nuclear non-proliferation regime and nuclear energy issues, as well as summaries of the review process leading up to the 2005 NPT Review Conference. Part II contains a compilation of treaties, agreements and documents relevant to the issues due to be discussed at the 2005 NPT Review Conference.”

**Outputs**

Discussions at the previous Pugwash CBW workshop in April led to the idea of trying something similar for the BWC given that it works and is both successful and valued for the NPT. In addition, many people have spoken of the need for ideas for the 6th BWC review conference and for a listing of all the many proposals made between 2001/02 and 2006. Therefore, it is proposed to combine the ACA/WILPF and MCIS/CNS concepts into a publication of two parts: 1) a collation of proposals by states, international organizations and NGOs; 2) a compilation of relevant treaties, agreements and documents. A draft outline of such a publication follows on page 2. This compendial concept could complement analytical approaches such as that used by the Bradford University Department of Peace Studies in its Key Points for the Fifth Review Conference (November 1996) and Key Points for the Sixth Review Conference (November 2001).

A further possibility would be a website focused on raising awareness of the 6th review conference. ACA and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace created such a website for the run-up to the 7th NPT review conference. The website (see <http://www.npt2005.org>) contained links to resources published by ACA, CEIP and other groups, contacts for the media and background information on the review conference and the NPT. A similar such website could be created for the 6th BWC review conference (<http://www.bwc2006.org> or <http://www.btwc2006.org> depending on your point of view), to serve as an awareness-raising and information tool for the general public and journalists. It would not duplicate the content of other websites such as <http://www.opbw.org> or the UN official documents system, but could provide links to them.
**Ways forward**

Production of a resource guide/briefing book would be best as a collaborative project between a number of NGOs. While none seem to be currently planning such a publication, some are planning similar projects. Such a project would obviously require funding for a month or two of research time but perhaps charitable foundations or even states might consider the project worthwhile enough to provide funds. The ACA/WILPF resource guide was funded by Ploughshares, while the MCIS/CNS briefing book received contributions from France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the UK. If anyone has comments or wants to collaborate on such a project, please contact Daniel Feakes on d.feakes@sussex.ac.uk to discuss how this could be taken forwards.

**Draft Outline**

**Foreword**

**List of acronyms**

**Part I**
- verification
- export controls
- disarmament
- CBMs
- education and awareness-raising
- universality
- national implementation
- ‘biosecurity’
- investigations
- structure and institutions

**Part II**
- Geneva Protocol
- BWC
- final declarations from past review conferences
- reports from the meetings of states parties
- past UNGA BWC resolutions
- list of states parties/signatory states/non-signatory states
- UNSCR 1540
- PSI statement of interdiction principles
- regional CBW-free declarations

**Glossary**