

**SIXTH 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**

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**Geneva, 20 November – 8 December 2006**

Item 10 of the agenda

**Review of the operation of the Convention  
as provided for in its Article XII**

**PROPOSAL FOR A  
PLAN OF ACTION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE X**

Submitted by the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement  
and other States

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The importance of international cooperation in the field of peaceful use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Convention has been recognized since the inception of the BWC. At previous Review Conferences, the States Parties had decided to take actions for implementation of Article X.

2. Article X states that:

*“The States Parties to this Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes. Parties to the Convention in a position to do so shall also co-operate in contributing individually or together with other States or international organizations to the further development and application of scientific discoveries in the field of bacteriology (biology) for the prevention of disease, or for other peaceful purposes.*

*This Convention shall be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic and technological development of States Parties to the Convention or international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities, including the international exchanges of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins and equipment for the processing, use or production of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.”*

3. Scientific cooperation and technological transfers constitute important incentives for the universalisation and the implementation of the Convention. The Sixth Review Conference has agreed on a Plan of Action to provide a framework for the development of scientific cooperation and technological transfer in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

## **PLAN OF ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE X**

### **THE SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE**

#### **1. *Calls on States Parties:***

- (i) To actively seek, nationally, bilaterally, multilaterally or through regional mechanisms, the full implementation of the decisions adopted in previous review conferences regarding Article X;
- (ii) To submit to the Implementation Support Unit established within the UN-DDA a national report on implementation of Article X, including offers and requests for assistance in different areas under the scope of Article X. These reports may be published on the BWC Web site, with the approval of the State Party concerned;
- (iii) To utilize the point of contact designated by States Parties to the Implementation Support Unit established within the UN-DDA to facilitate coordination among States Parties;
- (iv) To undertake to review their national regulations governing international exchanges and transfers in order to ensure their consistency with the objectives and the provisions of Article X;
- (v) To adopt positive measures to promote technology transfer and international cooperation, in particular to the developing countries, for the benefit of all mankind;
- (vi) To provide upon request, where in a position to do so, assistance to other States Parties in enacting and enhancing national legislation to implement the Convention;
- (vii) To facilitate cooperation, where in position to do so, in particular capacity building, as well as technology transfer in the area of custom control to facilitate the implementation of relevant provisions of the Convention;
- (viii) To ensure scientific cooperation and technology transfer, as well as exchange of information, concerning research programmes in biosciences and greater cooperation in public health, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases, and agriculture;

- (ix) To provide, where in position to do so, financial and technical support, directly as well as through international organizations and relevant international institutions, with the view to building capacities in States Parties in need of assistance in the fields of surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment of infectious diseases and related research;
- (x) To promote, where in position to do so, development and production of vaccine and drugs to prevent and treat infectious diseases through international cooperation and, as appropriate, public-private partnerships;
- (xi) To promote and facilitate regional workshops on scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges for peaceful purposes in pursuance of Article X;
- (xii) To promote, where appropriate, the development of efficient coordination mechanism between the United Nations and its relevant specialized agencies and relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate specific measures to promote scientific cooperation and technology transfer;
- (xiii) To support the adoption of measures to create networks between scientific communities and academic institutions regarding the peaceful use of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other areas related to the Biological Weapons Convention;
- (xiv) To assist the Implementation Support Unit established within the UN-DDA in the development of a database containing information on opportunities for international cooperation and technology transfers.

2. *Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to propose the inclusion in the agenda of the relevant United Nations specialised agencies a discussion and examination of the means of improving institutional mechanisms in order to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.*

3. *Requests the Implementation Support Unit established within the UN-DDA:*

- (i) To receive from and distribute among States Parties, on annual basis, information on the implementation of Article X of the Convention and on decisions adopted by the Sixth Review Conference;
- (ii) To disseminate information on needs conveyed by States Parties to enhance their capabilities to eradicate infectious diseases and to promote biological and biotechnological R&D for peaceful purposes;
- (iii) To develop, with the assistance of States Parties, and maintain a database containing information on opportunities for international cooperation and technology transfers;
- (iv) To maintain regular contact with the national points of contact of States Parties;

- (v) To provide to States Parties at their annual meetings a progress report on activities undertaken by it under this Plan of Action.

4. The Sixth Review Conference decides that a full review of the progress made in the implementation of the provisions set out in this Action Plan be carried out at the Seventh Review Conference.

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