

Second Meeting
Geneva, 6-10 December 2004

Meeting of Experts
Geneva, 19-30 July 2004
Items 5 and 6 of the agenda

**Enhancing international capabilities for mitigating the effects
and provision of assistance in cases of alleged use of
biological or toxin weapons or outbreaks of diseases**

Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. Each State Party has the right to request assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of biological and toxin weapons particularly in the following cases:
 - (i) Biological and/or toxin weapons have been used against it;
 - (ii) It is threatened by imminent actions prohibited under Article I of the Convention;
 - (iii) It has credible concerns about imminent actions or serious threat of actions prohibited under Article I of the Convention.
2. In view of the Islamic Republic of Iran the following are essential in mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or outbreak of diseases:
 - (a) States Parties, advanced in biotechnology and biosafety, should be urged to facilitate the fullest possible transfer of equipment, material and scientific and technological information concerning means of detection and protection against bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons to developing States Parties;
 - (b) Each State Party, in a position to do so, should identify possible types of medical, veterinary or other assistance available and to the extent possible, provide or contribute to the training and operation of national and/or international rapid response teams for emergency medical assistance, as well as necessary materials and equipment, especially for detection;

(c) States Parties are urged to provide assistance bilaterally and/or multilaterally through relevant agreements concluded in advance with other States Parties, concerning emergency assistance in cases of outbreak of diseases;

(d) In the event of a case of alleged use of biological agents or outbreaks of diseases, the United Nations, with the help of appropriate intergovernmental organizations, such as World Health Organization (WHO), Office of International des Epizootic (OIE) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with due consideration of their statutory mandate, could play a coordinating role in providing humanitarian emergency assistance;

(d) The States Parties could coordinate procedures for assistance in order to ensure the provision of timely emergency assistance. A request for assistance should be promptly considered and an appropriate response should be provided. In this context pending consideration of a decision by the United Nations Security Council, timely emergency assistance could be provided by States Parties and/or appropriate International Organizations, upon request.
