

**Meeting 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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Meeting of Experts

Geneva, 16–20 July 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Standing agenda item: cooperation and assistance,
with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation
and assistance under Article X**

**International channels for mobilization of resources for
assistance and cooperation**

**Background information document submitted by the Implementation
Support Unit***

Summary

The Seventh Review Conference decided that the 2012 to 2015 intersessional programme would include a Standing Agenda Item on cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X. The Conference also decided that under this item, States Parties would consider ways and means to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders. During regional group consultations in early June, States Parties requested a background paper on this topic. This paper provides an overview of possible international channels for mobilization of resources.

* Late submission, as document was requested by States Parties after due date.

I. United Nations and specialized agencies

A. Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee

<http://www.un.org/sc/1540/>

1. Security Council Resolution 1540 recognizes that some States may require assistance in seeking full implementation of the resolution. The Security Council encourages States to convey such requests to the Committee.

2. The 1540 Committee itself does not provide assistance but has a clearinghouse role to facilitate assistance by others for implementation of the resolution. One aspect of the function is to provide information from which assistance partnerships and cooperation projects can be developed to enhance implementation. A summary of assistance requests and a list of States and international organizations offering assistance are available on the website. The list of potential assistance providers is updated periodically by the 1540 Committee

3. In 2010, the 1540 Committee adopted revised procedures to rationalize, improve and accelerate response to assistance requests and facilitate match-making¹. There is a reporting process on what assistance has been delivered to meet assistance needs: Such reporting to date has included submissions to the 1540 Committee by States which have provided or delivered assistance in various areas.

4. In Security Council resolution 1810 (2008), the 1540 Committee was encouraged to engage in “matching” or partnering specific requests from Member States with offers from other States and relevant organizations.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

<http://www.fao.org>

1. Capacity Development Portal²

5. The FAO has a Capacity Development Portal that contributes to strengthening the national capacities of its member countries to achieve their own goals in the areas of food security and agricultural development. Through its learning resources and learning services, the Portal addresses the needs of individuals in rural communities, in organizations and institutions, and at policy level.

6. This Portal is designed for FAO staff, collaborators, partners, member countries and other international, national and local development actors to access knowledge, information, tools, good practices, and services related to Capacity Development in FAO's mandate areas. The Portal provides links to FAO's Thematic Areas that feature Capacity

¹ This process includes: Authenticating a request; the 1540 Committee Chairman acknowledging receipt of the request; distributing the request to potential assistance providers within one week after the request was received by the Committee; posting a summary of the request on the 1540 Committee website, with the consent of the requesting state; the 1540 Committee experts conducting informal ‘match-making’ on advice of the requesting State; the 1540 Committee Chairman circulating to the Committee Members offers of assistance regarding a specific request; and the 1540 Committee Chairman acknowledging such offers, and sending a letter to the requestor informing of such offers.
<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/assistance/general-information.shtml>

² <http://www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/capacity-development-home/en/>

Development as critical for the success of their programmes. The Portal also provides links to the principal external resources from within the United Nations and the broader international development community.

2. Technical Cooperation Department³

7. FAO has a Technical Cooperation Department, which is the operational arm of the organization, translating technical expertise in agriculture, food and nutrition, fisheries, forestry and sustainable development into practical application in the field. The Department implements and coordinates FAO's field activities in close cooperation with technical departments, decentralized offices and member nations and ensures that through this collaboration, FAO projects and programmes respond effectively to issues that impact on the lives of rural people.

C. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

<http://www.unep.org>

1. South-South Cooperation⁴

8. South-South Cooperation (SSC) is an essential cross-cutting mechanism of UNEP designed to enhance UNEP's ability to deliver environmental capacity building and technology-support activities in developing countries and regions of the South. The implementation of the SSC initiative is being carried out as part of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, a UN-approved approach to assisting developing countries. The Bali Strategic Plan serves as an umbrella framework for "coherent, coordinated and effective delivery of environmental capacity-building and technical support activities" in response to well-defined country priorities and needs.

2. Training and education⁵

9. The Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) undertakes environmental education and training in close collaboration with all UNEP's Divisions. The programmes, projects, initiatives and activities of EETU are organized around three pillars, namely Education, Training and Networking, with specific focus on higher education. They are broadly guided by UNEP's six priority thematic areas: climate change; ecosystems management; disasters and conflicts; environmental governance; harmful substances; and resource efficiency. This is accomplished through educating, training and creating awareness within universities and across governments, training centres, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

³ <http://www.fao.org/tc/>

⁴ <http://www.unep.org/south-south-cooperation/uneppscc/history.aspx>

⁵ <http://www.unep.org/training/>

D. World Health Organization (WHO)

<http://www.who.int>

1. Revised International Health Regulations

<http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/>

10. The World Health Assembly adopted a resolution updating the International Health Regulations (IHR) in May 2005. The revised IHR entered into force in June 2007 and require countries to report certain disease outbreaks and public health events to WHO. The IHR were revised to ensure the effective prevention, protection against, control of and public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

11. The innovation in the revised IHR is the mandatory obligation for all States Parties to develop, strengthen and maintain core public health capacities for surveillance and response, as soon as possible. WHO is mandated to create guidelines to help states do this. It can also provide technical assistance and efficiency assessments upon request.

12. The IHR set out a two-phase process to assist States Parties to plan for the implementation of their capacity strengthening obligations.

Phase 1, from 15 June 2007 to 15 June 2009

13. By 15 June 2009, States Parties must assess the ability of their existing national public health structures and resources to meet the core surveillance and response capacity requirements described in Annex 1A of the IHR.

Phase 2, from 15 June 2007 to 15 June 2012

14. By 15 June 2012, the surveillance and response capacities set out in Annex 1A are expected to be implemented by each State Party. States Parties that experience difficulties in implementing their national plans may request an additional 2-year period until 15 June 2014 to meet their Annex 1A obligations. In exceptional circumstances, the WHO Director-General may grant an individual State Party a further two years until 15 June 2016 to meet their obligations.

15. WHO will provide guidance to support States Parties in their efforts to develop and implement these national capacity strengthening plans. Upon request, WHO will assist developing countries in mobilizing financial resources needed to build, strengthen and maintain the capacities provided for in Annex 1A.

Current situation: end of Phase 2

16. In June 2012 the member states should have met the core capacity requirements; however there are some extensions for countries not able to meet the core requirements and WHO is facilitating this process. In the future, WHO will continue to work with the regional offices to assist countries — particularly those who are most vulnerable — to acquire and strengthen the IHR core public health capacities. WHO will continue to work with its international, multi-sectoral network of partners and will strive to engage more partners in its mission to achieve global health security.

2. Laboratory Biorisk Management⁶

17. In January 2012, WHO released a report concerning biorisk management in laboratories. The full name of the publication is *Laboratory Biorisk Management, Strategic Framework for Action, 2012-2016*. The main objectives of this framework are: coordinating the work of WHO towards improving biorisk management, capacity building and transferring knowledge to all member states and, trying to enhance knowledge and awareness on biorisk management. For achieving these objectives the WHO will create partnerships with other relevant organisations and institutions, such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

18. To achieve these objectives the framework focuses on four different areas

(a) Leadership and Communication: this is to ensure the development of a biorisk policy or strategy.

(b) Governance, Standards and Guidelines: trying to influence the development of standards and norms in the area of biorisk management, furthermore assisting countries to implement these standards and norms.

(c) Tools and Methodologies: to assist in building capacity by propagating the appropriate tools and methodologies.

(d) Competence Development: supporting awareness raising concerning the biorisks in laboratories.

E. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

<http://www.unicri.it/>

19. UNICRI has been active in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice, although the Institute has no mandate for operations in the field or direct involvement in response measures. UNICRI cooperates with many partners, such as the European Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the BWC ISU, INTERPOL, Europol and the World Customs Organisation. UNICRI contributes via its capacity-building programmes to the preparedness and planning stages of response, providing expertise and training and assisting in the creation and implementation of intervention programmes.

The CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE)⁷

20. In 2010 the CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) was founded by UNICRI and the EC Joint Research Centre (EC JRC). Currently the CBRN CoE initiative is a European Union funded programme with four different parties, respectively UNICRI, the European Commission Joint Research Center (EC JRC), the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid (DEVCO), and the European External Action Service (EEAS). UNICRI assists with the implementation of the CoE.

21. The main aim of CoE is to build a common CBRN network with different regions outside the European Union. The programme facilitates cooperation on a regional level to improve CBRN related policies and capabilities. The regional initiatives will focus on:

⁶ http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2012/WHO_HSE_2012.3_eng.pdf

⁷ http://www.unicri.it/security/cbrn_coe/

<http://www.cbrn-coe.eu>

- (a) Promotion and support of national CBRN policy;
- (b) Optimizing the sharing and use of CBRN capabilities;
- (c) Developing guidelines, collecting and sharing best practices;
- (d) Establishing a cooperation process between network members to identify issues and possible solutions from information available to the network;
- (e) Identifying, collecting, analyzing and deploying resources to respond to the needs identified by partner countries.

22. In April 2012, there were 40 countries from seven different regions actively participating in the Centres of Excellence initiative. The regions are the African Atlantic Façade, North Africa, South East Asia, South East Europe, Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia. These countries all have installed National Focal Points. The National Focal Points cooperate with Regional Secretariats to help the national teams achieve their objectives in CBRN capacity building. Moreover, the National Focal Points work with the Implementing Body and other partner organisations (IAEA, WHO, OPCW, BWC ISU, 1540 UNSCC etc.). The Implementing Body and the partner organisations can provide assistance and support on implementing CBRN activities in the region or in a specific country.

23. The CoE is currently running 21 different projects on CBRN terrorism and threats. A number of these projects are specifically on biological aspects, including: raising awareness on dual-use concerns within biotechnology; guidelines and procedures to improve bio-safety and bio-security; and, a capacity-building project for identifying and responding to threats and outbreaks. The projects all have their own budget and are directed at a few countries or one specific region.

II. Other international intergovernmental organizations

A. INTERPOL

<http://www.interpol.int/Public/BioTerrorism/>

24. A dedicated bioterrorism unit was created in June 2004 and has developed a programme to build national and international capacity to counter the threat of bioterrorism. The INTERPOL Bioterrorism Programme (IBP) deals primarily with addressing, through national measures and international cooperation, the acquisition and use of biological weapons by non-state actors.

25. The programme's tasks include coordinating, developing and enhancing the knowledge, training and capability of law enforcement to recognize, prevent, contain and investigate bio-terrorist threats. More specifically, the programme includes the following:

- (a) establishing a resource centre at the disposal of worldwide law enforcement;
- (b) developing a Bioterrorism Incident Pre-planning and Response Guide, which contains information on bioterrorism preparedness activities and operational response, in order to assist member countries in addressing the unique aspects of intentional biological threats.
- (c) providing training and awareness programmes in a wide variety of formats, as well as an e-learning module, and a fellowship programme for specialized police officers. This training comprises Train The Trainer Sessions (TTT) and TableTop Exercises (TTEX);

(d) seeking to develop, with law enforcement and relevant agencies, ways of gathering and sharing information concerning the threat of bioterrorism more effectively;

(e) creating a database of biological crimes committed since the beginning of the 20th century (complementary to the UN bio-incidents database);

(f) enhancing co-operation and understanding between international organizations and research centres, including those dealing in genetic engineering.

26. Since 2012, the Bioterrorism Prevention Programme became part of a newly created programme: The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and, explosives (CBRNe) programme⁸. This is a comprehensive programme for combating CBRNe terrorism, it rests on three pillars: intelligence and analysis, prevention and response.

B. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

<http://www.oie.int/support-to-oie-members/>

27. In order to meet the objective and priority of the OIE ‘to improve animal health and welfare worldwide’, the OIE has developed the following support activities for its Members.

1. The PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services) Pathway

28. The PVS Pathway corresponds to a global programme for the sustainable development of a country’s veterinary services, which includes a PVS Evaluation (qualitative diagnosis on compliance with quality standards, providing baseline information), a PVS Gap Analysis including Veterinary Services Strategic Priorities, and specific capacity building activities, projects and programs.

2. Capacity building activities

29. Regional capacity building programmes aim to strengthen animal disease surveillance and control, early outbreak detection and rapid response at both a regional and national level. This also facilitates networking between Country Delegates to the OIE and OIE National Focal Points. OIE Regional Representations and Sub-Regional Representations organize on average between two and four regional seminars per region and per year to maintain continuing information and education, and capacity building of Country Delegates to the OIE and OIE National Focal Points in the country (contact persons for relations with the OIE) specialised in the different relevant technical fields.

3. OIE Twinning Projects

30. The OIE laboratory twinning initiative, launched in 2006, essentially involves creating and supporting scientific expertise in developing countries, as well as a link that facilitates the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experience between two parties. It has been adopted by the OIE as a method for improving laboratory capacity and expertise in developing and in-transition countries. This programme creates opportunities for developing and in-transition countries to develop scientifically competent laboratory diagnostic methods, to progress towards meeting the international standards of the OIE, and in certain cases to become an OIE reference laboratory.

⁸ <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Terrorism/CBRNE-programme>

31. The OIE is currently working on a basic reference curriculum for veterinarians. The OIE also intends to engage progressively in twinning projects on veterinary education between national veterinary universities or schools.

4. Vaccine banks

32. In 2006, the OIE set up a Regional Vaccine Bank for avian influenza vaccines in Africa funded under the EU Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). In 2007, this was broadened to a global vaccine bank for avian influenza vaccines with the financial support of Canada (CIDA). The EU funded Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic Emerging and Re-emerging animal diseases (HPED) in Asia will see the expansion - in Asia - of this vaccine bank to other diseases other than avian influenza, such as: foot and mouth disease, rabies and possibly other pathogenic emerging and re-emerging transboundary diseases.

5. Global studies

33. OIE supports its Members through the commissioning and publication of global studies which, to date, have focused on the following key topics: 'Prevention and Control of Animal Diseases Worldwide', the 'Cost of National Prevention Systems for Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Developing and Transition Countries' and 'Listing and Categorisation of Priority Animal Diseases, including those Transmissible to Humans'.

6. Veterinary legislation

34. In order to support OIE Members, the OIE has developed guidelines on all the essential elements to be covered in veterinary legislation. Any OIE Member which has participated in an OIE PVS Evaluation may request a follow-up mission which focuses on providing advice and assistance to modernize the national veterinary legislation. The OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation will be used to update the national legislation where gaps are identified during the course of an OIE PVS Evaluation mission.
