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**Consideration of, with a view to enhancing international
cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological
sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting
capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance,
detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases**

PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL SETTINGS

Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit*

Summary

This paper summarizes a selection of assistance and capacity-building activities undertaken in other international settings which may be relevant as examples or models for capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment. The paper takes examples of assistance *provided* by formal organizations, and assistance that is *brokered or coordinated* by organizations or networks. Where appropriate, the examples in each category are further divided into four types of assistance: needs assessment; training and education; technical guidance and cooperation; and building networks.

I. Assistance provided by formal organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

A. Needs assessment

1. At the request of a Member State, the IAEA secretariat will provide evaluations of a state's capabilities in certain areas, such as education and training programmes relevant to safety and advice on the nuclear generation of electricity¹. It will then develop a plan to help states

*/ Submitted after due date, as soon as required information was available to the Secretariat for inclusion.

¹ <http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/ST/index.html>

strengthen their relevant capacity². Guidelines for these processes are currently under development.

B. Training and education

2. The IAEA secretariat provides training courses on a variety of topics and for different audiences. For example, under its Nuclear Installations Safety activities, it hosts training courses for senior managers on Management Systems³. It also has its own laboratories which play an important role in the provision of training for scientists from developing countries⁴. It has developed a Master of Science educational programme in nuclear security and a curriculum for certification courses in nuclear security. The IAEA, through its Department of Technical Cooperation also runs programmes for scientific visits, to broaden the scientific or managerial qualifications of specialists in developing countries, and fellowships, to develop more general skills over a longer time frame. There is a dedicated fellowship programme for young professional women⁵. Meetings and training courses are supported by a variety of tools and materials developed by the agency, such as standardised lectures, electronic text books, videos and multi-media tools.

3. The IAEA holds train-the-trainer sessions to strengthen effectiveness and planning of regulatory body in-house training and sustainability under its nuclear safety activities⁶. National and regional training centres are also being established to support sustainable national nuclear safety infrastructures⁷. The IAEA has developed complementary training materials to assist States in developing their own capacity to assess their training need.

C. Technical guidance and cooperation

4. The IAEA supports cooperative projects to provide expert services, specialized equipment, training, and other types of support⁸. It has a Technical Cooperation Programme which was developed jointly by the Secretariat and the Member States. It is based on an assessment of the development priorities and conditions in each specific country or region, the project requests received from Member States, the application of appropriate criteria for project formulation, appraisal and formal approval by the IAEA Board of Governors⁹. Current projects take place at the national, regional and inter-regional levels¹⁰. The Department of Technical Cooperation can also arrange Fellowships to build human capacity¹¹.

5. To support states in developing and implementing their oversight and regulatory regimes, the IAEA provides information, technical data and other forms of guidance. For example, under its Nuclear Safety and Security umbrella, the IAEA has published technical guidance on: technical and functional specifications for border monitoring equipment; nuclear forensic

² <http://www-ns.iaea.org/training/ni/default.htm>

³ <http://www-ns.iaea.org/training/ni/train-on-ss.asp#1>

⁴ <http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/ST/NA/NAAL/labmain.php>

⁵ <http://www-tc.iaea.org/tcweb/participation/asfelloworvisitor/default.asp>

⁶ <http://www-ns.iaea.org/training/ni/train-tools-netw.asp>

⁷ <http://www-ns.iaea.org/training/ni/integrated-strategy.htm>

⁸ <http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/ST/index.html>

⁹ <http://www-tc.iaea.org/tcweb/tcprogramme/default.asp>

¹⁰ <http://www-tc.iaea.org/tcweb/tcprogramme/selectdatagroup/default.asp>

¹¹ <http://www-tc.iaea.org/tcweb/participation/asfelloworvisitor/default.asp>

support; monitoring for radioactive material in international mail transported by public postal operators; engineering safety aspects of the protection of nuclear power plants against sabotage; identification of radioactive sources and devices; combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material; nuclear security culture; preventive and protective measures against insider threats; and security in the transport of radioactive material.

6. The IAEA has an International Nuclear Information System, which was established to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information on peaceful uses of atomic energy. It creates a reservoir of nuclear information for current and future generations; provides quality nuclear information services to Member States; and assists with the development of a culture of information and knowledge sharing¹². It also focuses on Nuclear Knowledge Management to enable resources to build skilled and trained human capacity¹³. The IAEA also hosts meetings of international experts to discuss specific aspects of nuclear safety, such as those on emergency preparedness and response or the licensing process and regulatory oversight in the design and construction of relevant facilities¹⁴.

D. Building networks

7. The IAEA is involved with forming networks of regional, national and collaborating centres in several areas, including on occupational radiation protection and safety¹⁵, technical cooperation, peaceful uses and nuclear energy.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

A. Training and education

8. The OPCW provides training courses for national personnel who could be involved in response to the use of chemical weapons or breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)¹⁶. Participants in these courses and workshops learn about the logistical difficulties involved in the efficient delivery of assistance, and discuss possible responses to terrorist attacks, as well as the need for joint training and exercises involving the Technical Secretariat and CWC States Parties offering assistance. The OPCW is also developing the capacity of its states to train their own trainers, for example with mechanisms for controlling imports and exports; training and tools for control are provided as well as regional and national awareness raising activities.

B. Technical guidance and cooperation

9. The OPCW's Assistance and Protection Branch provides technical guidance, makes information available and provides advice to States Parties on means of protection and the

¹² <http://www.iaea.org/inisnkm/inis/aboutinis/overview.htm>

¹³ <http://www.iaea.org/inisnkm/nkm/aboutNKM.html>

¹⁴ <http://www-ns.iaea.org/training/ni/workshops.asp#2>

¹⁵ <http://www-ns.iaea.org/training/rw/default.asp>

¹⁶ <http://www.opcw.org/our-work/assistance-and-protection/assistance-against-chemical-weapons/requests-for-assistance/>. National preparation should be strengthened in any of the following circumstances: 1) the State Party considers chemical weapons to have been used against it; 2) the State Party considers riot control agents to have been used against it as a method of warfare; or 3) the State Party considers itself to be threatened by actions prohibited by the Convention taken by another country.

implementation of protection programmes¹⁷. The Branch maintains a data bank containing freely available information concerning means of protection, and conducts courses and workshops on protection and civil defence, often at the request of individual States Parties.

10. The OPCW promotes peaceful uses of chemistry through cooperation programmes¹⁸. The role of the International Cooperation Branch of OPCW is to facilitate international cooperation and to support national capacity building in relation to the peaceful application of chemistry in all CWC States Parties. Programmes include assistance in developing and improving laboratory capacity; provision of specialised internships and training in CWC implementation and safe chemical management; and the OPCW Associate and Internship Support programme which provides specialised training in modern industrial practices and skills development to chemists and engineers from States Parties whose economies are either developing or are in transition.

C. Building networks

11. The OPCW has established a network of Technical Secretariat staff and experts nominated by States Parties to provide, for limited periods of time, on-site guidance and suggestions regarding protection programmes and capabilities. States Parties have nominated more than 40 people to participate in this Protection Network.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

12. The IMO has developed an *Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP)*, which is designed to assist Governments which lack the technical knowledge and resources that are needed to operate a shipping industry successfully¹⁹. The Mission Statement of the ITCP is "to help developing countries improve their ability to comply with international rules and standards relating to maritime safety and the prevention and control of maritime pollution, giving priority to technical assistance programmes that focus on human resources development and institutional capacity-building."

13. The ITCP is a knowledge transfer based assistance, where capacity building is made through upgrading institutional arrangements, developing and updating national legislation, training of people, and finally regional and sub-regional collaborations. The IMO Secretariat constitutes the institutional structure of the technical cooperation, ensuring the coordination and delivery aspects of the programme. Regional presence offices and partners are available, as well as experts and consultants. The thematic priorities are maritime safety and security; marine pollution prevention; legislation and facilitation. The types of assistance provided are based on needs assessment: advisory services; short term training; long term training; drafting and updating national maritime legislation and regulations.

¹⁷ <http://www.opcw.org/our-work/assistance-and-protection/assistance-against-chemical-weapons/the-role-of-the-secretariat/>

¹⁸ <http://www.opcw.org/our-work/international-cooperation/>

¹⁹ http://www.imo.org/TCD/mainframe.asp?topic_id=27

II. Assistance brokered or coordinated by organizations or networks

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)²⁰

14. The CHM is coordinated by an Executive Secretary and overseen and guided by an Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) set up by the Parties to the CBD. The main characteristics of the CHM are: compatibility with different levels of national capacity, needs-driven, and structurally decentralized.

A. Technical guidance and cooperation

15. A National Clearing-House Mechanism (or National CHM) has been established; it is a website that provides relevant information on the CBD in a particular country. The national CHM website should contain all national biodiversity-related information that is required to assist policy makers and interested stakeholders to meet obligations under the CBD and to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. Its database is accessible through both traditional and electronic means of communication. The texts of the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, lists of signatories and Parties, and official reports and documents are available on the Convention's website, on CD-ROM and in paper form. Users can access case studies, national reports, and other relevant documentation.

16. Workshops are organized by the Secretariat to address the scientific and technical information needs of developing countries. These workshops give priority to issues identified by the countries themselves.

B. Building networks

17. A network of national focal points for the mechanism was established to address matters relating to technical and scientific cooperation, acting as a one of the communication channels between the national and regional levels and the Secretariat of the CBD.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1540 (2004)

18. The 1540 Committee has a clearing house role, match-making requests for and offers of assistance for national implementation of the obligations of the resolution. The 1540 Committee website²¹ lists offers related to assistance and also some of the requests for assistance it has received. An experts group is nominated by the Committee and is in charge of supporting the Committee's work in facilitating technical assistance by matching offers and requests through assistance templates, action plans or other information submitted to the Committee.

19. The experts support the states in formulating their request using an "assistance template". The Committee and the experts group will work with the state that is seeking assistance to use the template to specify the type, subject, scope and modalities of the required assistance.²² This

²⁰ <http://www.cbd.int/chm/>

²¹ <http://www.un.org/sc/1540/>

²² Eighth Program of Work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). <http://www.un.org/sc/1540/programofwork.shtml>

template may also be used to prepare for a meeting between a requesting country, the 1540 Committee and interested assistance providers.

20. The assistance template includes the following categories of assistance available:

- (i) Drafting of national reports, legislation or regulations.
 - (ii) Implementation of regulations, administrative and/or technical measures consistent with national governmental structures.
 - (iii) Training, e.g., for administrators, regulatory and enforcement officials, inter alia, on the use of equipment, commodity identification, outreach.
 - (iv) Equipment, e.g., detection equipment, licensing software.
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