

**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**

12 November 2018

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**2018 Meeting
Geneva, 4–7 December 2018**

**Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness
Geneva, 14–15 August 2018**

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the factual report reflecting the deliberations
of the meeting, including possible outcomes**

**Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on assistance,
response and preparedness**

I. Introduction

1. At the Eighth 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 (BWC/CONF.VIII/4), States Parties decided to hold annual meetings and that the first such meeting, in December 2017, would seek to make progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an intersessional process.

2. At the Meeting of States Parties in December 2017, States Parties reached consensus on the following:

“(a) Reaffirming previous intersessional programmes from 2003-2015 and retaining the previous structures: annual Meetings of States Parties preceded by annual Meetings of Experts.

(b) The purpose of the intersessional programme is to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on those issues identified for inclusion in the intersessional programme.

(c) Recognising the need to balance an ambition to improve the intersessional programme within the constraints – both financial and human resources – facing States Parties, twelve days are allocated to the intersessional programme each year from 2018- 2020. The work in the intersessional period will be guided by the aim of strengthening the implementation of all articles of the Convention in order to better respond to current challenges. The Meetings of Experts for eight days will be held back to back and at least three months before the annual Meetings of States Parties of four days each. Maximum use would be made of the Sponsorship Programme funded by voluntary contributions in order to facilitate participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme.

(d) The meetings of the MSP will be chaired by a representative of the EEG in 2018, a representative of the Western Group in 2019 and a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned Movement and Other States in 2020. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups. In addition to the reports of the Meetings of Experts, the Meetings of States Parties will consider the annual reports of the ISU and progress on universality. The Meetings of Experts will be chaired in 2018 by [the Group of the Non-Aligned

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Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC] (MX 1 and MX 2) and the Western Group (MX 3 and MX4), in 2019 by EEG (MX1 and MX 2) and NAM (MX 3 and MX 4), and in 2020 by Western Group (MX 1 and MX 2) and by EEG (MX 3 and MX 4); MX 5 will be chaired by the regional group chairing the MSP.

	<i>MSP</i>	<i>MX 1</i>	<i>MX 2</i>	<i>MX 3</i>	<i>MX 4</i>	<i>MX 5</i>
2018	EEG	NAM	NAM	WG	WG	EEG
2019	WG	EEG	EEG	NAM	NAM	WG
2020	NAM	WG	WG	EEG	EEG	NAM

All meetings will be subject mutatis mutandis to the rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference.

(e) The Meetings of Experts would be open-ended and will consider the following topics:

[...]

MX4 (2 days): Assistance, response and preparedness:

- Practical challenges facing the implementation of Article VII, and possible solutions;
- A set of guidelines and formats to assist a State Party, if required, when submitting an application for assistance in the framework of Article VII;
- Procedures, including the establishment and use of the assistance database, to improve the prompt and efficient response without preconditions to a request of assistance by a State Party under Article VII, and coordination and cooperation among States Parties and with relevant international and regional organizations such as WHO, OIE and FAO, as appropriate;
- Examination of how the concept of mobile biomedical units might contribute to effective assistance, response and preparation with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention;
- Exploration of approaches by which States Parties, individually or collectively, might contribute to the strengthening of international response capabilities for infectious disease outbreaks, whether natural or deliberate in origin;
- Exploration of means to prepare for, respond to and render assistance in case of the possible hostile use of biological agents and toxins against agriculture, livestock as well as the natural environment.

[...]

(f) Each Meeting of Experts will prepare for the consideration of the annual Meeting of States Parties a factual report reflecting its deliberations, including possible outcomes. All meetings, both of Experts and of States Parties will reach any conclusions or results by consensus. The Meeting of States Parties will be responsible for managing the intersessional programme, including taking necessary measures with respect to budgetary and financial matters by consensus with a view to ensuring the proper implementation of the intersessional programme. The Ninth Review Conference will consider the work and outcomes it receives from the Meetings of States Parties and the Meetings of Experts and decide by consensus on any inputs from the intersessional programme and on any further action.”

3. By resolution 72/71, adopted without a vote on 4 December 2017, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to continue to provide such

services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the review conferences.

II. Organization of the Meeting of Experts

4. In accordance with the decisions of the Eighth Review Conference and the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, the 2018 Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 14 to 15 August 2018, chaired by Mr. Daniel Nord of Sweden.

5. The Meeting of Experts adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/1) as proposed by the Chair. The Chair also drew the attention of delegations to a background paper prepared by the Implementation Support Unit (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/2).

6. Following a suggestion by the Chair, the Meeting of Experts adopted as its rules of procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Eighth Review Conference, as contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/2.

7. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief, Implementation Support Unit, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva, served as Secretary of the Meeting of Experts. Mr. Hermann Lampalzer, Political Affairs Officer, Implementation Support Unit, served as Deputy Secretary and Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij, Political Affairs Officer, also served in the secretariat.

III. Participation at the Meeting of Experts

8. 100 States Parties to the Convention participated in the Meeting of Experts as follows: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zimbabwe.

9. In addition, two States that had signed the Convention but had not yet ratified it participated in the Meeting of Experts without taking part in the making of decisions, as provided for in rule 44, paragraph 1 of the rules of procedure: Haiti and the United Republic of Tanzania.

10. One State, Israel, neither a party nor a signatory to the Convention, participated in the Meeting of Experts as an observer, in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 2.

11. The United Nations, including the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), attended the Meeting of Experts in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 3.

12. The European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) were granted observer status to participate in the Meeting of Experts in accordance with rule 44, paragraph 4.

13. 26 non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of Experts under rule 44, paragraph 5.

14. A list of all participants in the Meeting of Experts is contained in document BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/INF.1.

IV. Work of the Meeting of Experts

15. In accordance with the provisional agenda (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/1) and an annotated programme of work prepared by the Chair, the Meeting of Experts had substantive discussions on the issues allocated by the 2017 Meeting of States Parties.

16. Under agenda item 4 (“Practical challenges facing the implementation of Article VII, and possible solutions”), Canada introduced its working paper BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.8 and the United States of America introduced two working papers, BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.5 and BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.9. There then followed an interactive discussion in which the following States Parties participated: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Nepal, Philippines, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC. The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) also made a statement. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

17. Under agenda item 5 (“A set of guidelines and formats to assist a State Party, if required, when submitting an application for assistance in the framework of Article VII”), South Africa introduced its working paper, BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.3 and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) made a technical presentation. There then followed an interactive discussion in which the following States Parties participated: Belgium; Brazil, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC. The European Union also made a statement. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

18. Under agenda item 6 (“Procedures, including the establishment and use of the assistance database, to improve the prompt and efficient response without preconditions to a request of assistance by a State Party under Article VII, and coordination and cooperation among States Parties and with relevant international and regional organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as appropriate”), South Africa introduced its working paper, BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.4, France and India presented their joint working paper from the Preparatory Committee to the Eighth Review Conference, BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.38, the Islamic Republic of Iran presented its working paper from the Preparatory Committee to the Eighth Review Conference, BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/WP.17, Japan introduced its working paper co-sponsored with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.7, the United States of America introduced its working paper BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.10, the Russian Federation referred to the relevant section of its working paper, BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.1 and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) made a technical presentation. In addition, the Implementation Support Unit made a brief intervention to respond to a question from the Chair of the Meeting of Experts. There then followed an interactive discussion in which the following States Parties participated: Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Netherlands, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

19. Under agenda item 7 (“Examination of how the concept of mobile biomedical units might contribute to effective assistance, response and preparation with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention”), the Russian Federation introduced its working paper,

BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.1. There then followed an interactive discussion in which the following States Parties participated: Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Jordan, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

20. Under agenda item 8 (“Exploration of approaches by which States Parties, individually or collectively, might contribute to the strengthening of international response capabilities for infectious disease outbreaks, whether natural or deliberate in origin”), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Australia introduced their working papers, BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.2 and BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.6 respectively. In addition, Poland introduced a video on “Support for EU Action in the field of CBRN Security Managers’ Education” and the World Health Organization (WHO) made a technical briefing. There then followed an interactive discussion in which the following States Parties participated: Australia, Brazil, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

21. Under agenda item 9 (“Exploration of means to prepare for, respond to and render assistance in case of the possible hostile use of biological agents and toxins against agriculture, livestock as well as the natural environment”), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) made a technical presentation. There then followed an interactive discussion in which the following States Parties participated: Brazil, China, India, Spain, and Sweden. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

22. In the course of its work, the Meeting of Experts was able to draw on a number of working papers submitted by States Parties and international organizations, as well as on statements and presentations made by States Parties and international organizations, which were circulated in the Meeting.

23. The Chair, under his own responsibility and initiative, has prepared a paper listing considerations, lessons, perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals drawn from the presentations, statements, working papers and interventions on the agenda items under discussion at the Meeting. The Meeting of Experts noted that this paper had not been agreed and had no status. It was the Chair’s view that the paper could assist delegations in their preparations for the Meeting of States Parties in December 2018 and those in the remaining years of the intersessional programme and in succeeding Meetings of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness in the intersessional programme in 2019 and 2020 and also in their consideration of how best to “discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on” the topics in accordance with the consensus reached at the 2017 Meeting of States Parties. The paper prepared by the Chair, in consultation with States Parties, is attached as annex I to this report.

V. Documentation

24. A list of official documents of the Meeting of Experts, including the working papers submitted by States Parties, is contained in annex II to this report. All documents on this list are available on the BWC website at <http://www.unog.ch/bwc> and through the United Nations Official Document System (ODS), at <http://documents.un.org>.

VI. Conclusion of the Meeting of Experts

25. At its closing meeting on 15 August 2018, the Meeting of Experts adopted its report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/CRP.1 as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/3.

Annex I

Summary report

Submitted by the Chairperson of the Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness

1. The Chairperson, under his own responsibility and initiative, has prepared this paper which lists considerations, lessons, perspectives, recommendations, conclusions and proposals drawn from the presentations, statements, working papers and interventions on the agenda items under discussion at the Meeting. The Meeting of Experts noted that this paper had not been agreed and had no status. It was the Chair's view that the paper could assist delegations in their preparations for the Meeting of States Parties in December 2018 and those in the remaining years of the intersessional programme and also in succeeding Meetings of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness in the intersessional programme in 2019 and 2020.
2. The Chairperson would like to express his gratitude to delegations for their active participation in the Meeting, particularly for the various working papers that were submitted and which together with oral statements and the constructive debate, as well as the interventions by relevant international organizations have served as the basis for this summary report. The report of the Meeting details which delegations spoke under the different agenda items, and which delegations introduced working paper, so such information will not be repeated in this summary report. It emerged from the discussions that there is general interest in making progress on Article VII, as well as an awareness that the institutional and practical implementation of Article VII is lacking and presents significant challenges, with Some States Parties feeling that further reflection and discussion are needed as regards the practical modalities towards this goal.
3. The following paragraphs summarize and synthesize the substantive discussions under agenda items 4 to 9.

I. Agenda item 4 – Practical challenges facing the implementation of Article VII, and possible solutions

4. The purpose of this agenda item was to address the general issues related to the implementation of Article VII. The discussion commenced around the question whether, faced with the current lack of institutional and operational structures to give effect to Article VII, existing mechanisms and resources could be used without duplicating efforts, especially in light of the restrictions on available financial and other resources, or whether a specific mechanism should be conceived in view of the specific nature of this Convention's provision. While improvisation might be useful, the need to prepare and coordinate in advance in order to ensure an effective implementation of this provision emerged during the exchanges among delegations. This includes the availability of procedures, efforts building capacity at the national level and coordinate with international assistance, including by international organizations, as well as the availability of logistical resources, training and exercising. While recognizing the important role of relevant international organizations and other processes, and the importance to ensure that these organizations and processes work together harmoniously in case of a deliberate use, some delegations also reaffirmed the need for the Convention to retain a central role in the event of the use of biological weapons.
5. From an operational perspective, challenges were highlighted that would derive both from the deliberate nature of an outbreak and a possible request for assistance pursuant to Article VII. Some delegations stressed the importance of command and control and coordination in the context of a response operation, and made reference to lessons identified from the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in West Africa, particularly in connection

with their potential applicability also for deliberate use scenarios. In working papers and interventions during the discussions, States Parties also highlighted the vital importance of capacity-building at the domestic level as a first line of defence. It was suggested that strengthening surveillance, detection and response capacities of national health systems, would help to tackle both infectious disease outbreaks of a natural origin and also enhance preparedness to mitigate the consequences of deliberate bio-events.

6. Some States Parties also referred to initiatives at the national, regional, inter-governmental and international level that occur outside the BWC context, and emphasized the importance of taking into account relevant efforts in the context of the Convention and linking them together, where possible. Noting the nexus between public health and security issues and potential synergies related to it, as well as the importance of coordinating the work of relevant institutions with a mandate to support States in the event of an outbreak, a number of States Parties stressed the relevance of strengthening collaboration and cooperation between the BWC and other relevant international organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as relevant frameworks such as the 2005 International Health Regulations and the Global Health Security Agenda. At the same time, some States Parties noted that discussions on possible measures within the BWC should synergise with current efforts by relevant international organisations. As regards a possible coordinating role by the United Nations, the fact that the new disarmament agenda recently issued by the UN Secretary-General tasked “[t]he Office for Disarmament Affairs will work with all relevant United Nations entities to contribute to developing a framework that ensures a coordinated international response to the use of biological weapons” was noted.

II. Agenda item 5 – A set of guidelines and formats to assist a State Party, if required, when submitting an application for assistance in the framework of Article VII

7. Discussions on the guidelines and formats for an assistance request under Article VII featured prominently during the Meeting and received considerable attention by many States Parties. Several delegations expressed their support in principle for proposed guidelines, particularly as regards the type of information to be provided when submitting a request. Several delegations indicated their willingness to engage on this issue to support further work. Some suggested the possibility that the Depositaries States, acting pursuant to Article XIV of the Convention, could circulate a copy of a request for assistance under Article VII to the attention of all States Parties. Additionally, reference was made to the guidelines developed by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for States Parties requesting a rapid response and assistance mission as a background material of potential interest. On the other hand, and while stressing the importance of developing a detailed procedure and mechanism for a timely, effective and adequate response, some delegations indicated that the Convention should develop its own original mechanism and proposals may require further consideration.

8. It was also suggested that, besides requesting assistance pursuant to Article VII with the ensuing involvement of the UN Security Council, two other options would be available to a State Party to request assistance, both of them however without invoking the provisions of Article VII. One of them would be to obtain assistance on a bilateral basis from other States Parties, States or international organisations (particularly the WHO, OIE, and FAO, as well as the International Plant Protection Convention – IPPC Secretariat). The other option would be to request assistance from other States Parties that are in a position to provide assistance without UN Security Council approval. While this view was supported by some States Parties, other thought that a request for assistance independent of the UN Security Council approval raises some practical questions that would also require further attention.

III. Agenda item 6 – Procedures, including the establishment and use of the assistance database, to improve the prompt and efficient response without preconditions to a request of assistance by a State Party under Article VII, and coordination and cooperation among States Parties and with relevant international and regional organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization, as appropriate

9. Another widely discussed issue was the development of an Article VII assistance database as first proposed in 2015. The purpose of the database would be to support the implementation of Article VII by matching specific offers and requests for assistance. While the Eighth Review Conference supported the establishment of the database open to all States to facilitate assistance under the framework of Article VII, it did not take an accompanying decision to actually establish this database or to provide the resources for its maintenance. Many States Parties supported the proposal to established a database/databank, however many also underlined the need to define how the database/databank would work in practice.

IV. Agenda item 7 – Examination of how the concept of mobile biomedical units might contribute to effective assistance, response and preparation with a view to enhancing implementation of the Convention

10. States Parties also devoted attention to a proposal on mobile biomedical units, which could be deployed under the aegis of BWC Article VI, VII and X. Additionally, it was suggested that such assets could be listed in the Articles VII database. Various States Parties took the floor and welcomed the proposal in principle. In the discussion, a number of States Parties made reference to national assets deployed in the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa and lessons identified from these deployments. States Parties raised some practical questions such as the aspect of interoperability among national teams, how to ensure operational readiness, or the overarching framework in which these teams would operate. In addition, delegations stressed the importance of the mobile nature of these units, and underlined the important role that trainings and exercises could play.

V. Agenda item 8 – Exploration of approaches by which States Parties, individually or collectively, might contribute to the strengthening of international response capabilities for infectious disease outbreaks, whether natural or deliberate in origin

11. Under this agenda items, several delegations described measures that they have adopted or are in the process of implementing at the national level to be ready to respond to infectious disease outbreaks, including of a deliberate nature. These included national response plans, rapid response teams, training of experts CBRN specialized units, collaboration between the public health and enforcement authorities, as well as table-top and full-fledged field exercises, both national and with international elements, aimed at testing readiness.

VI. Agenda item 9 – Exploration of means to prepare for, respond to and render assistance in case of the possible hostile use of biological agents and toxins against agriculture, livestock as well as the natural environment

12. Delegations pointed to the important economic and human consequences that an attack on agriculture and livestock could cause, while stressing that existing mechanisms' mandates and operations, particularly in the plant sector such as the IPPC, do not cover hostile use of these type of agents. The OIE is currently considering this issue in the context of its bio-threat reduction strategy. In this connection, it was stressed that it is critically important for States Parties to adopt regulatory frameworks, particularly as regards export and import and trans-border movements of plants and livestock, as well as to consider more closely this sector from the perspective of an international response to a deliberate use of plant pathogens.

Annex II

List of documents of the Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness

<i>Symbol.</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/1	Provisional agenda for the Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness - Submitted by the Chair
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/2 English only	Background information document on assistance, response and preparedness - Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/3	Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on assistance, response and preparedness
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/CRP.1 English only	Draft Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on assistance, response and preparedness - Submitted by the Chair
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/INF.1 English/French/Spanish only	List of participants
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.1 Russian only	Assistance and protection from biological weapons in the context of Article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention – Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.2 English only	Draft Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on assistance, response and preparedness - Submitted by the Chair
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.3 English only	Draft Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on assistance, response and preparedness - Submitted by the Chair
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.4 English only	Provision of assistance to a State Party that has been exposed as a result of a violation of the Convention - Submitted by South Africa
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.5 English only	Recent International Developments Relevant to Article VII - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.6 English only	Australia's Health Security Initiative: Strengthening regional response capabilities for infectious disease outbreaks - Submitted by Australia
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.7 English only	Strengthening Cooperation among States Parties and Relevant International Organizations in Response to Deliberate Spread of Infectious Diseases - Submitted by Japan - Co-sponsored by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.8 English only	A contribution to the discussions on the practical challenges facing the implementation of Article VII, and possible solutions - Submitted by Canada
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.9 English only	Strengthening Article VII: International Cooperation and Assistance in Preparing for and Responding to Biological Incidents - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.10 English only	Investigations of Alleged Biological Weapons Use: Overlap with Public Health Assistance under Article VII of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of America

<i>Symbol.</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.11 English only	Assistance, response and preparedness - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
