

**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**

7 November 2018

Original: English

2018 Meeting

Geneva, 4-7 December 2018

**Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance,
with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation
and Assistance under Article X**

Geneva, 7-8 August 2018

Item 11 of the Agenda

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

**Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on cooperation and
assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening
cooperation and assistance under Article X**

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) Recognizing 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 Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC] (MX 1 and MX 2) and the Western Group (MX 3 and MX 4), in 2019 by EEG (MX 1 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:

MX.1 (2 days): Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X:

- Consideration of the reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X;
- Review of the report by the ISU on the operation of the assistance and cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference and consideration of its further operationalization, including measures to further strengthen the operation of the database, including in the light of BWC/MSP/2017/4;
- Identification of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible ways and means of overcoming these;
- Development of guidelines and procedures for mobilizing resources, including financial resources on a voluntary basis to address gaps and needs;
- Facilitation of education, training, exchange and twinning programs and other means of developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;
- Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation;
- Collaboration with international organizations and networks related to combating infectious diseases at all levels, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote implementation of all articles of the Convention.

[...]

(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 was convened at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 7 to 8 August 2018, chaired by Ambassador Maria Teresa Almojuela, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines.

5. On 7 August 2018, the Meeting of Experts adopted its agenda (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/1) 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.1/2).

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. Ninety-five 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, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, 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, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, 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, 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 1540 Committee Group of Experts, 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 Caribbean Community, the European Union, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the South Centre, 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. In addition, at the invitation of the Chair, in recognition of the special nature of the topics under consideration at this meeting and without creating a precedent, two scientific, professional, commercial and academic organizations and experts participated in informal exchanges in the open sessions as guests of the Meeting of Experts: the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the Stimson Center.

14. Twenty-six non-governmental organizations and research institutes attended the Meeting of Experts under rule 44, paragraph 5.

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

IV. Work of the Meeting of Experts

16. In accordance with the provisional agenda (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/1) 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.

17. Under agenda item 4 (Consideration of the reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X”), two States Parties introduced their working papers, Australia and the United States of America, (see BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.1 and BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.7 respectively) and one State Party, the Russian Federation, presented an updated paper on its Article X activities (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.10). There was also a brief overview provided by the ISU, based upon its background paper prepared specifically for this Meeting. There then followed an interactive discussion on the agenda item in which the following States Parties participated: Brazil, China, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Mali, Mexico, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

18. Under agenda item 5 (“Review of the report by the ISU on the operation of the assistance and cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference and consideration of its further operationalization, including measures to further strengthen the operation of the database, including in the light of BWC/MSP/2017/4”), the Implementation Support Unit gave a briefing on the newly updated Cooperation and Assistance database. The United States of America introduced its working paper on this topic (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.9). The Group of Experts under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) made a presentation, followed by the South Centre, and the Stimson Center, speaking as a “Guest of the Meeting”. There then followed an interactive discussion on the agenda item in which the following States Parties participated: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Saudi Arabia, Spain, 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 short intervention. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

19. Under agenda item 6 (“Identification of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible ways and means of overcoming these”), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC, and the Islamic Republic of Iran presented their working papers on this agenda item, see BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.5 and BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.6 respectively. There then followed an interactive discussion on the agenda item in which the following States Parties participated: Angola, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, 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 Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) also made a technical briefing. Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

20. Under agenda item 7 (“Development of guidelines and procedures for mobilizing resources, including financial resources on a voluntary basis to address gaps and needs”), the United States of America introduced its working paper on this topic (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.3). The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) made a presentation, speaking as a “Guest of the Meeting”. There then followed an interactive discussion on the agenda item in which the following States Parties participated: Germany, Philippines, 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.

21. Under agenda item 8 (“Facilitation of education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries”) China made an intervention on the partnership between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and The World Academy of Sciences. The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) also made a presentation. There then followed an interactive discussion on the agenda item in which the following States Parties participated: Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, Mali, Romania, 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.

22. Under agenda item 9 (“Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation”), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced working paper BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.2 produced jointly with Canada, Norway introduced working paper BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.4 and the European Union introduced working paper BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.8. The United States of America, France and the Russian Federation then made presentations. The United Arab Emirates delivered a statement on behalf of the Arab Group. There then followed an interactive discussion on the agenda item in which the following States Parties participated: Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, 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. There were also technical presentations from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Various views were expressed during the consideration of this agenda item.

23. Under agenda item 10 (“Collaboration with international organizations and networks related to combating infectious diseases at all levels, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote implementation of all articles of the Convention”), there were technical presentations by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). There then followed an interactive discussion on the agenda item in which the following States Parties participated: Brazil, Mali, Romania,

Switzerland, 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.

24. 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, international organizations and guests of the Meeting, which were circulated in the Meeting.

25. The Chair, under her 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 Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X 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

26. 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

27. At its closing meeting on 8 August 2018, the Meeting of Experts adopted its report by consensus, as contained in document BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/CRP.1 as orally amended, to be issued as document BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/3.

Annex I

Summary report

Submitted by the Chair

1. The Chairperson, under her 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 held from 7 to 8 August 2018. The Meeting of Experts noted that this paper had not been agreed and had no status. It was the Chairperson's view that the paper could assist delegations in their preparations for the Meeting of States Parties in December 2018 and for the remaining years of the intersessional programme, including in particular the succeeding Meetings of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X in the intersessional programme in 2019 and 2020.
2. The Chairperson would like to express her 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 papers, so such information will not be repeated in this summary report.
3. The in-depth and substantive discussions and the large number of proposals indicated the clear interest of delegations in making progress on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X. The following sections summarize and synthesize the substantive discussions under agenda items 4 to 10.

Agenda item 4 - Consideration of the reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X

4. States Parties noted that the Seventh Review Conference had encouraged States Parties to "provide at least biannually appropriate information on how they implement Article X of the Convention to the [Implementation Support Unit (ISU)] and requested the ISU to collate such information for the information of States Parties." This call was repeated by the Eighth Review Conference. However, the ISU reported that the rate of submission of such reports had been very low.
5. States Parties emphasized the usefulness of the reports and discussed how voluntary reporting can be further optimized with the view of strengthening the Convention, in particular the implementation of Article X.
6. The Meeting of Experts heard that at the national level, the reports serve to reinforce networks, and cohesion in implementing a State Party's obligations under Article X. At the international level, they inform the global community about the commitment of States Parties and how they implement their obligations under Article X. It was also stated that the reports enhance transparency between partners sharing best practices, while establishing a web of relevant stakeholders and expanding and consolidating existing networks of cooperation and assistance.
7. Some States Parties noted the added value of such reports, as many of the activities listed in the reports are taking place outside of the framework of the BWC, and therefore not always reported in the Confidence-Building Measures forms or the BWC Cooperation and Assistance Database. In this context, some States Parties shared the view that submission of voluntary reports on activities relevant to the BWC helps to establish the central role of the BWC-ISU in coordinating activities relevant to Article X implementation.

8. States Parties noted that the reports should be substantive, practical and meaningful. It was acknowledged that while the standardisation of the reporting format is desirable, some flexibility is necessary as States Parties have different approaches to implementing Article X. Some States Parties noted that efforts to improve reporting must take into account all information on how States currently implement Article X. It was stated that reporting requires extensive internal coordination and harmonization given the complexity, diversity and range of activities related to assistance. Some States Parties suggested that guidelines - rather than fixed formats - on the structure and content of the report could be provided by the ISU.

9. Some States Parties recommended that reports on cooperation activities by States that have received assistance would enrich the information available on States Parties' implementation of Article X, including South-South cooperation. This would help facilitate the ISU's role in coordinating activities related to Article X implementation.

Agenda item 5 - Review of the report by the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) on the operation of the assistance and cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference and consideration of its further operationalization, including measures to further strengthen the operation of the database, including in the light of BWC/MSP/2017/4

10. While welcoming the improvement of the Cooperation and Assistance Database undertaken by the ISU as requested by the Eighth Review Conference, including the increased number of offers and the number of requests listed in the Database, States Parties noted the need to further harness the potential of the Database as the BWC's online cooperation platform for implementing Article X.

11. The Meeting discussed measures to strengthen the operationalisation of the database, and listened to presentations on examples of existing online cooperation and assistance platforms in the UN system and their features of functionality and structure.

12. It was noted that the Database is currently used by a small proportion of States Parties, and successful matching of offers and requests remains a challenge. It was pointed out that many States Parties pursue assistance and cooperation activities outside of the BWC framework. It was emphasized that assisting States Parties on needs identification and assessment will help them to submit specific requests, facilitate the optimal use of the Database by developing States Parties, and increase the prospect of successful matching of requests and offers in the Database.

13. Many States Parties underlined the need to enhance the functionality, visibility and effectiveness of the Database, and that this is critical to strengthening the BWC cooperation mechanism. Possible measures were discussed along this line, including the following: programmes to support needs-assessment activities, including a voluntary fund and a capacity-building officer within the ISU; publicizing postings of offers and requests; outreach and awareness-raising by ISU; review and upgrade of the Database design such that it would be a user-friendly and resource-rich interface and would include all pertinent information and references on the full range of partnerships and providers of assistance relevant to BWC implementation, including those from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations; identification by States Parties of a point of contact for BWC assistance and cooperation; and, appropriate engagement of academic, research institutes and the private sector in BWC assistance and cooperation.

Agenda item 6 - Identification of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible ways and means of overcoming these

14. States Parties shared views on strengthening international cooperation and assistance under Article X, and the need to bridge gaps in the fields of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other related areas between developed and developing countries. It was noted that cooperation and assistance under Article X can contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in developing countries, in response to the call of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for a new disarmament agenda, that, among others, supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

15. Some States Parties proposed the development of a mechanism for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X, emphasizing that international cooperation and assistance for purposes consistent with the Convention should not be hindered. In this regard, they proposed a Cooperation Committee that could consult on, monitor and review activities of international cooperation and assistance. The proposed Committee can coordinate the operationalization of offers and supplies proposed and/or requested by States Parties. Other States Parties took the view that such a Committee may be unnecessary given the broad range of existing cooperation and assistance activities. Some States Parties also suggested that multilateral export control regimes impose restrictions on legitimate transfers of biotechnologies and items for peaceful purposes, and that the demand for enhanced cooperation and assistance in this regard had not yet been fully met. Proposals in this regard include the establishment of a non-proliferation export control and international cooperation regime that will promote non-proliferation and peaceful use of biotechnology. However, other States Parties expressed the view that multilateral export control regimes support the implementation of Article III of the Convention and that very few transfer requests are actually denied.

16. Some States Parties raised practical challenges in implementing cooperation and assistance programmes which include the following: identifying the appropriate partner agencies in recipient countries; coordination with and among different agencies and sectors within the recipient countries; developing and sustaining expertise of human resources in recipient countries; capacity gaps between developing and developed states that hinder cooperation such as in pathogen-sharing and technology transfer; and, administrative hurdles in recipient countries. Some States Parties also cited challenges in recipient countries related to policies and regulations on intellectual property rights, investment, and innovation, which are relevant in promoting technology transfers and trade.

17. States Parties recognized the need to coordinate better and share information to manage partnerships and implement projects successfully. It was stressed that the successful implementation of cooperation projects is a shared responsibility of recipients and donor countries. Some States Parties highlighted the value of voluntary transparency exercises, such as peer review exercises, not only as useful tools to monitor, assess and map cooperation and assistance projects, but also for the purposes of training and identifying assistance opportunities.

Agenda item 7 - Development of guidelines and procedures for mobilizing resources, including financial resources on a voluntary basis to address gaps and needs

18. States Parties discussed the need to explore new approaches and instruments to effectively address gaps and needs in cooperation and assistance under Article X, in a sustainable manner, through resource mobilization guidelines.

19. The Meeting noted examples of innovative public-private partnerships that have been successfully established such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) or the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). It was pointed out that they

provide useful templates for the collaboration of developing and developed states with international organizations, NGOs, academe and industry, to address particular gaps and needs in cooperation and assistance under Article X.

20. Some States Parties noted the progress made in identifying gaps and prioritizing needs, through the collaboration with international organisations and non-government organisations. This includes collaborations under the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) Alliance, through which national action plans have identified gaps and built public health capacities.

21. States Parties acknowledged that a clear identification of gaps and needs would guide the development of resource mobilization strategies in the BWC context.

22. In this regard, some States Parties proposed the adoption of an action plan, including inter alia the identification of needs in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information; obstacles hampering the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X; financial resources; development of human resources; and coordination of cooperation with relevant international and regional organizations. The proposed action plan would also include procedures for the settlement of disputes arising from concerns about the implementation of Article X. Other States Parties took the view that such an action plan may not be necessary given the wide range of activities already taking place, including with relevant international organisations such as the WHO, OIE, as well as under the GHSA.

23. Some States Parties underlined the value of national implementation action plans, involving assessment questionnaires, in identifying gaps and needs and specific opportunities for assistance and cooperation. The Meeting of Experts heard that such plans could also be relevant in supporting CBM submissions and in the creation of lists of high-risk biological materials of concern. Some States Parties pointed out that a legislation gap analysis is useful when initiating a national implementation process. Of particular relevance are legislation and draft bills such as those on pathogens and toxins, public health, transport of infectious substances, and controls on exports of dual-use items. Legislation gap analysis is also required for crafting detailed legislation on biosafety and biosecurity.

Agenda item 8 - Facilitation of education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries

24. States Parties considered existing international and regional platforms for education, training, exchange and twinning programmes to support human resource development in the field of biological sciences such as The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). They also took note of the numerous university-based programmes and technology exchanges involving scientists and academe between and among developing and developed states. It was pointed out that this web of platforms and networks need to be fully supported, with focus on programmes that are most salient to the Convention.

25. Noting the emergence of strong South-South collaboration in scientific training and research, some States Parties suggested that the potential for raising the level of such collaboration within the context of the BWC can be explored, beginning with the identification of priority areas which are most pertinent to the Convention.

26. Some States Parties emphasized that narrowing capacity gaps is critical in promoting cooperation particularly on pathogen-sharing and technology access. In this regard, measures to assist recipient states in handling biological agents and putting in place domestic infrastructure that comply with international guidelines and norms are fundamental conditions to promote successful international and regional cooperation.

27. Some States Parties noted that comprehensive inter-agency plans at the national level can contribute to effective implementation and help in identifying concrete opportunities for developed states to support human resource development in the fields of biological sciences

and technology in developing states. It was emphasized that oversight of scientific research, education about dual-use risks, ethical science and bioethics and the development of codes of conduct for life scientists are important elements in national plans.

Agenda item 9 - Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation

28. States Parties considered the broad range of activities that are already conducted within the framework of Article X in this regard, noting that this area manifests the strongest interface between Article X and Article VII of the Convention.

29. States Parties highlighted the importance of promoting South-South cooperation in the field of capacity-building for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks. It was proposed that further measures to facilitate such initiatives should be encouraged.

30. While noting that there is no agreed definition of biosafety and biosecurity in the Convention, some States Parties emphasized the need to take measures to broaden practical cooperation in these two areas for building capacity in developing States Parties, with the aim of shaping tailored solutions. It was underlined that solutions require prior assessment and planning and should take into account financial, practical and operational challenges in resource-limited settings. States Parties took note that national plans as well as sub-regional and regional dialogue and cooperation played an important role in this regard.

31. Some States Parties highlighted that challenges in the developing states included the lack of financial resources, scarcity of specialists and experts, high turn-over of staff, lack of public understanding of biosecurity and biosafety risks and access to laboratories. Addressing these challenges will help narrow the capacity gap among developed and developing States Parties in detection, reporting and response. Some States Parties saw the value of strengthening international cooperation, including through the Database, on the establishment of sustainable laboratories for high-consequence pathogens in resource-limited settings.

32. The Meeting discussed the following practical measures: a database to serve as reference on regulatory frameworks for biosafety and biosecurity; effective training provision and manuals that will help States Parties in crafting tailored biological risk management systems as well as in establishing, operating and maintaining laboratories for high-consequence pathogens

33. The Meeting considered a presentation by the OIE on its guidelines on investigation of suspicious biological events, which highlighted the need to map laboratory capabilities across public health, veterinary and forensic disciplines, to set up sustainable laboratories, including through laboratory twinning projects, to promote training and education and to improve crisis management capabilities, including through greater inter-operability, harmonized protocols and procedures, and simulation exercises on the national, regional and global level. The Meeting also considered a presentation from INTERPOL on its initiatives to address biological threats and its mechanisms on information-sharing and support for national law enforcement authorities during investigations and emergency response.

Agenda item 10 - Collaboration with international organizations and networks related to combating infectious diseases at all levels, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote implementation of all articles of the Convention

34. States Parties acknowledged that relevant international and regional organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal

Health (OIE), play an important role in disease surveillance, prevention, detection and response and that there is merit in continuing coordination and cooperation with them to implement Article X of the BWC in accordance with their respective mandates. It was noted that WHO has put in place programmes which serve as good models for engaging industry and the private sector.

35. States Parties further underlined that the threats posed by biological weapons are multidimensional and require strong and effective collaboration with all relevant international organizations and networks, citing the vital interface between health and security. States Parties emphasized that the unique role of the BWC as a Convention dealing with security-related issues should be recognized.

36. Some States Parties raised the need to address the lack of resources within the ISU which has limited capacity to pursue more interactions with WHO, OIE and other relevant actors, including international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. Options raised in the Meeting in this regard include strengthening the ISU through the recruitment of a cooperation and assistance officer and the establishment of an open-ended working group on cooperation.

Annex II

List of documents

<i>Symbol.</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/1	Provisional agenda for the Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by the Chair
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/2 English only	Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/3	Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/CRP.1 English only	Draft Report of the 2018 Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by the Chair
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/MISC.1 English/French/Spanish only	Provisional list of participants
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/INF.1 English/French/Spanish only	List of participants
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.1 English only	Australia's Article X report for 2016 and 2017 - Submitted by Australia
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.2 English only	Promotion of Capacity Building: Sustainable Laboratories for High Consequence Pathogens - Submitted by Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.3 English only	Report on BWC Implementation Workshop. Rabat, Morocco, 10-11 May 2018 - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.4 English only	Outcome of the International Workshop on Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - Submitted by Norway
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.5 English only	Institutional Mechanism for International. Co-operation and Compliance with Article X - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.6 English only	Institutional Mechanism for International. Co-operation and Compliance with Article X - Submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the BWC
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.7 English only	Report on Implementation of Article X of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention - Submitted by the United States of America

<i>Symbol.</i>	<i>Title</i>
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.8 English only	Comparative review of biological threats needs assessment and national action plans implemented under BTWC, EU CBRN Centres of Excellence, WHO (IHR-JEE), and 1540 UNSCR. African Regional Conference, 25-26 October 2017, Rabat, Morocco - Submitted by the European Union
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.9 English only	Improving the Utility and Functioning of the BWC Assistance and Cooperation Database - Submitted by the United States of America
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.10 English and Russian only	Participation of the Russian Federation in implementation of the Article X of the BTWC. Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being (Rospotrebnadzor): Comprehensive Program of Capacity Building in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the Prevention, Control and Surveillance of HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases - Submitted by the Russian Federation
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.11 Spanish only	Implementación del Artículo X de la Convención de Armas Biológicas (CAB) - Presentado por Cuba
BWC/MSP/2018/MX.1/WP.12 English only	Cooperation and Assistance, with a particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X - 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