
**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**

20 November 2018

English only

2018 Meeting

Geneva, 4–7 December 2018

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting
their deliberations, including possible outcomes**

**Article X reports – Australia’s approach to structure and
content**

Submitted by Australia

Introduction

1. Australia submits Article X reports on a regular basis and we have developed a simple one-page template for our internal use that may be of interest to other States Parties. The biggest challenge for us has been the inter-agency consultation process and explaining across government what is required. We developed our template by drawing on the different elements of Article X as well as a broad survey of the reports submitted by other States Parties.

2. Australia does not seek endorsement of this template as it is our view that States Parties should be able to choose how they present the information that demonstrates they are meeting their Article X obligations. However, we are sharing the simple template Australia has developed as a resource for States Parties who might find it useful. We welcome ideas from others if there are elements we have forgotten.



Annex

Australia's BWC Article X template

(Country's name) is a member of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and has obligations and reporting responsibilities under the Convention, including Article X. Article X relates to international cooperation that encourages and facilitates the peaceful use of biological sciences and technology.

The full text of Article X is copied below:

“Article X

(1) The States Parties to this Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes. Parties to the Convention in a position to do so shall also cooperate in contributing individually or together with other States or international organizations to the further development and application of scientific discoveries in the field of bacteriology (biology) for prevention of disease, or for other peaceful purposes.

(2) This Convention shall be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties to the Convention or international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities, including the international exchange of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins and equipment for the processing, use or production of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.”

Text of biennial Inter-agency consultations (via email):

“We would be very grateful if you would please provide examples of relevant activities from (year) and (year) that we can include in (country's name) Article X report under the two key sub-headings below. As a guide, we have included under the two sub-headings a few examples of the sorts of activities that fall within the scope of Article X. This list is not exhaustive, but is indicative of activities undertaken by (country's name) agencies.

- **Countering biological terrorism and countering proliferation**
 - Laboratory biosafety and security of toxins and pathogens
 - Import and export controls
 - Emergency and disaster management plans
 - Emergency response
 - Seminars, exercises and training courses
- **Disease prevention and addressing pandemics and emerging infectious diseases**
 - Developing human resources in the life sciences.
 - Vaccine development and production.
 - Bio-risk management, biosafety and biosecurity.
 - Disease surveillance, diagnosis and control.

- Research to improve prevention, detection and response to infectious diseases.
- Cooperation with the WHO, FAO, OIE, IPPC and other relevant regional and international organisations.

Please consult all relevant areas within your agency/ministry to ensure your input captures a wide range of examples. If you are not the best contact person for your agency/ministry, please provide an alternative contact so we can update our records.”
