



Biological Weapons Convention

After accession/succession: The benefits

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BWC 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) 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.



Article X implementation

- Article X relates to many aspects of the life sciences and biotechnologies, as long as the goals are designed for peaceful purposes
 - There is a certain emphasis on human health-related issues
 - Nevertheless, animal and plant health issues are not ignored
 - Protection and prevention, as well as building resilience in the face of natural or man-made disasters are covered (cf. preparations for Article VII implementation)
 - Assistance and technology transfers to improve the quality of oversight of treaty-relevant activities on the territory of a State party
 - Assistance with respect to the prevention of terrorism and crime involving agents covered by the BWC
- Recommendations by the 7th Review Conference (2011):
 - Continue strengthening existing international organizations and networks working on infectious diseases, in particular those of the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC
 - Improve communication on disease surveillance at all levels, including between States Parties and with the WHO, FAO, OIE and IPPC
 - Continue establishing and/or improving national and regional capabilities to survey, detect, diagnose and combat infectious diseases as well as other possible biological threats and integrate these efforts into national and/or regional emergency and disaster management plans
 - Continue supporting capacity-building in States Parties in need of assistance in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases and related research
 - Promote the development and production of vaccines and drugs to treat infectious disease through international cooperation



Article X database

- Facilitates the exchange of requests for and offers to provide, assistance and cooperation among States Parties
 - Administered by the BWC ISU
 - Internet-based
 - *Requests* are located in the restricted area of the BWC ISU website (i.e. reserved access only for officials designated by the States Parties); *offers* can be accessed from the public website
- Purpose
 - to submit on a voluntary basis to the Implementation Support Unit any requirements, needs or offers for assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of biological and toxin agents for peaceful purposes.
 - Enable States Parties to match requests with offers for assistance, and to then make arrangements for collaboration
- Examples
 - *Offers of assistance*: building security and biosecurity capacity, disease surveillance and detection, emergency interventions, etc.
 - *Requests for assistance*: establishing best practices and policies for biological risk management, building capacity by participating in training programs, transfers of biological equipment for peaceful purposes, etc.



National implementation

- Has over the past decade become a focal issue
 - Relates to the quality of a State Party's commitment to the BWC
 - Relates to the domestication of obligations by States so as to make them apply to natural and legal persons operating on the territory of a State party or any territory under its control, as well as nationals operating abroad
 - Contributes to:
 - Regulatory oversight over entities and activities on national territory
 - Prevention of terrorism and crime involving biological and toxin agents, as well as criminalisation and penalisation of certain acts
 - Lays the foundation for the preparation of the reports under the Confidence-building Measures (CBMs), which in turn enhance transparency and international confidence in compliance
- Assistance is available in the following areas
 - Development and enhancement legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures, including penal legislation
 - Implementing voluntary management standards on biosafety and biosecurity
 - Encouraging the promotion of awareness of obligations to the Convention as well as relevant national legislation amongst those working in the biological sciences and related professionals in the private and public sectors
 - Encouraging the development of education programmes and voluntary codes of conduct to promote a culture of responsibility for those with access to biological agents and toxins relevant to the Convention
 - Methods and capacities for surveillance and detection of outbreaks of disease at the national, regional and international levels



Sponsorship programme

- Financial support for increasing participation of developing States Parties in meetings of the BWC intersessional programme (and review conferences)
 - Decision of the 7th Review Conference (2011)
 - Funded by voluntary contributions by States parties
 - Administered by the BWC ISU in consultation with States Parties that are office holders with respect to certain meetings
 - *Next call* to be made in the *autumn of 2017* for Meeting of States Parties
- Functioning of the sponsorship programme
 - Eligibility:
 - Priority for states that have not participated in meetings previously
 - Priority for states that have been unable to regularly send experts from capital
 - Pending availability of resources, non-States Parties to promote universalisation
 - How to apply:
 - Application form available from the BWC website
 - Need to meet request deadline
 - Currently available funds: ≈ US\$ 80k (AUS, CAN, IND & GER forthcoming)
 - Travel arrangements and accommodation arranged by ISU



Contact

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