



Biological Weapons Convention *Triggering Article VII*

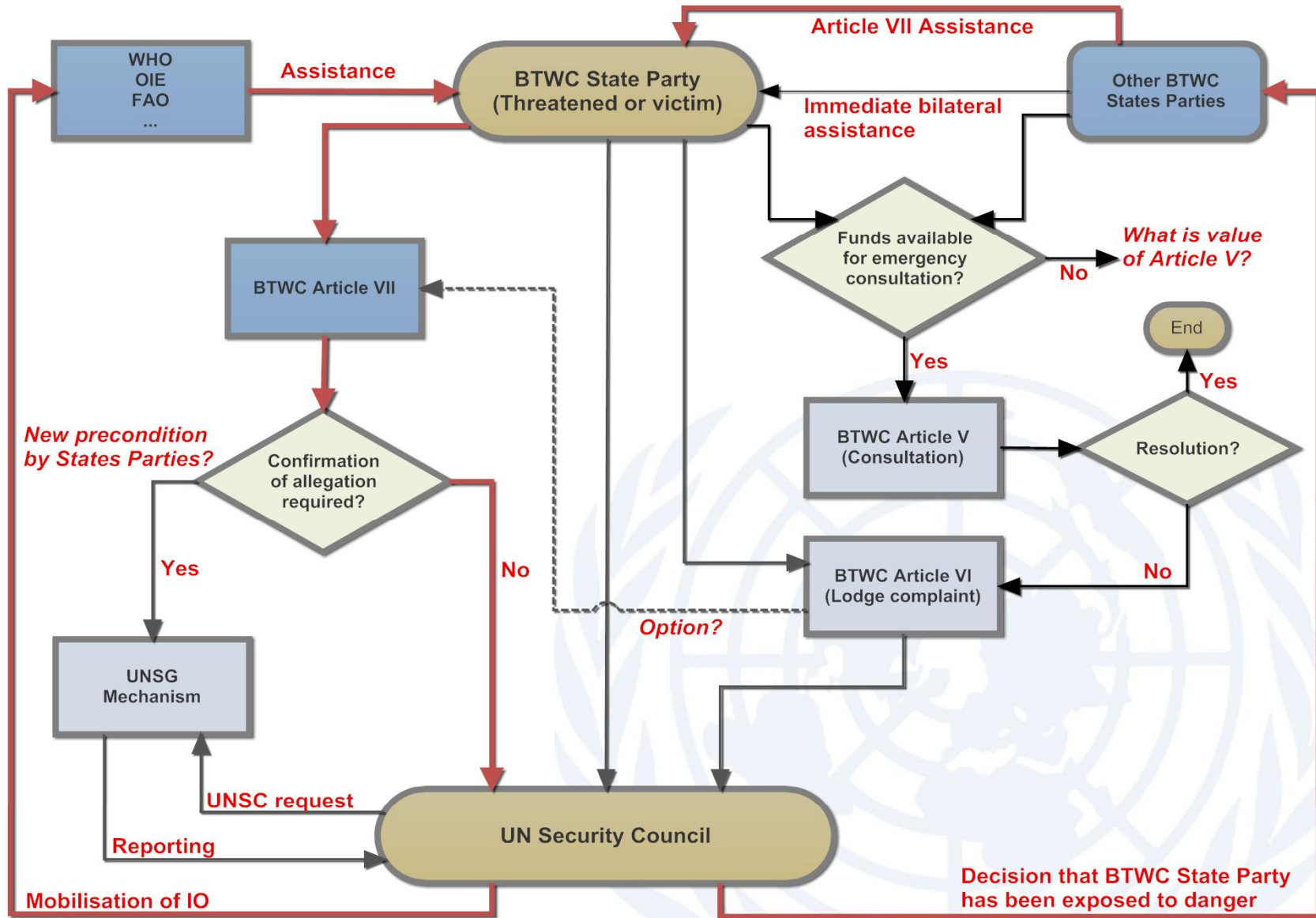
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Article VII Tabletop Exercise

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- Article VII actions
- Alternatives



Key considerations

- Triggering Article VII will be politically highly sensitive
 - Presumption of major violation of BTWC
 - Geopolitical interests may interfere at each state of the process
 - Article VII may therefore not be the initially preferred route
 - Lack of clear procedure and requirements currently additional barrier
- Article VII is but one route available to a BWC State Party
 - A UN Member may go directly to the UNSC
 - A BWC State Party may call for consultations (Article V)
 - A BWC State Party may lodge a formal complaint (Article VI)
 - Immediately
 - After failure to resolve the matter via consultation (Article V)
 - A BWC State Party may seek assistance outside the BWC framework
- Time frames for decision-making



An additional layer of considerations

Which type of crisis would be considered under Article VII?

- In principle, all deliberate outbreaks involving human, animal or plant pathogens
- However, impact of media and subjective sense of urgency

<i>The outbreak</i>	Human pathogens	Non-human pathogens
Fast spreading epidemic	Ebola crisis Mentioned in Final Document 8 th RevCon, §34	Foot-and-mouth disease Blight
Slowly developing crisis	Anthrax outbreak	Anthrax outbreak (e.g., livestock) <i>Thrips palmi?</i>



Contact

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