Biological Weapons Convention

Triggering Article VII

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Article VII Tabletop Exercise
Geneva, 9 – 10 October 2017
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

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

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