

Triggering Article VII of the BTWC

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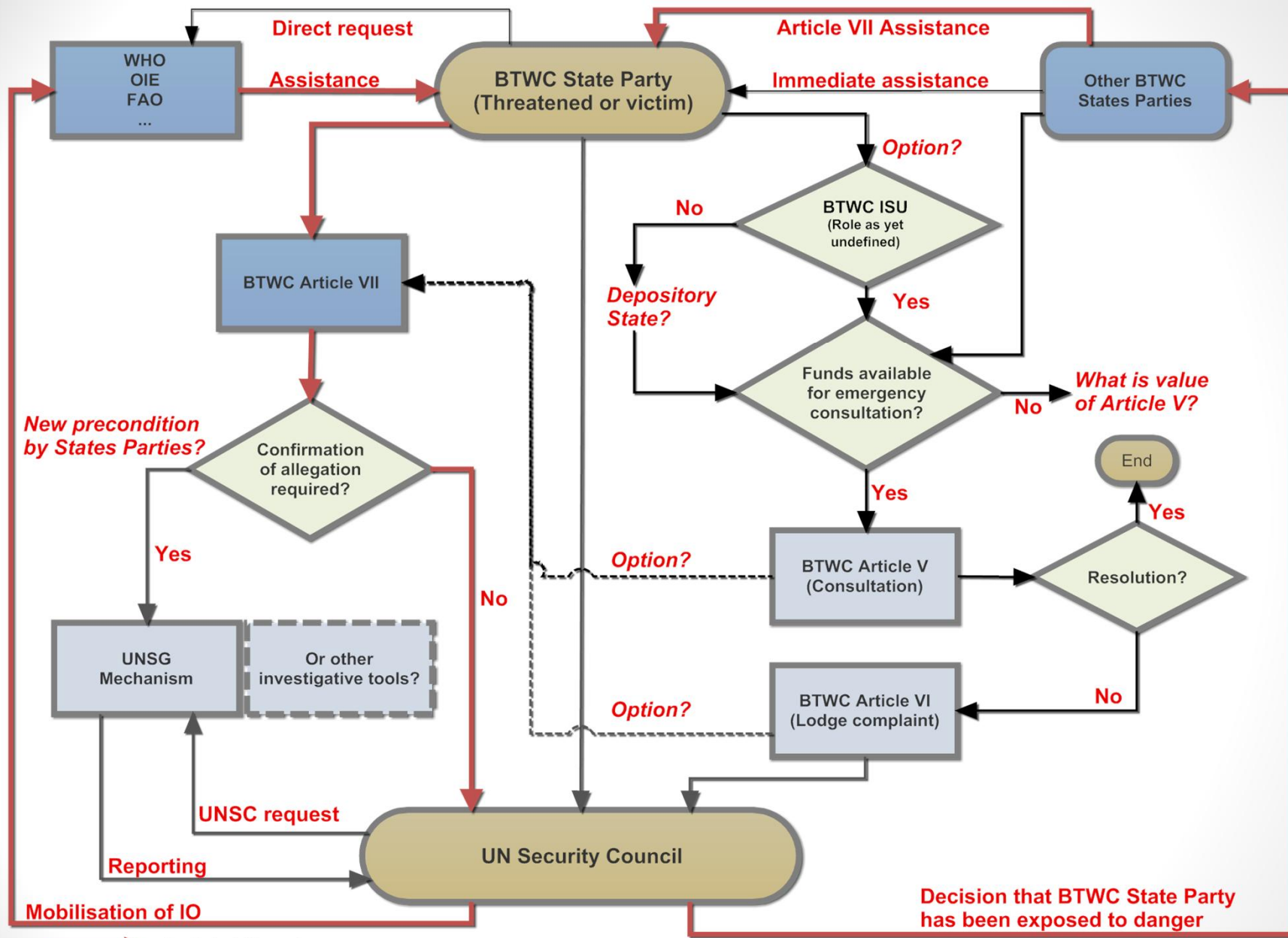
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G7 Global Partnership Working Group (Biological Security Sub-Working Group)

Paris, 7 February 2019

Tabletop Exercises (TTX) on triggering emergency assistance under Article VII

- **Pilot TTX**
 - November 2016 during BTWC RevCon
 - Sponsored by the French MoFA
 - Implemented by the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (FRS) and UNIDIR
- **Outcome: Great hesitation about triggering Article VII**
 - Implication: Biological warfare, which might escalate hostilities
 - Uncertainty about procedures and therefore about consequences of decisions
 - Three countries took totally different decision courses
 - Questions about the veracity of the allegation of BW use played major role in attitudes
 - Questions about role and consequences of invoking of UN Secretary-General's Investigative Mechanism (not a BTWC tool)
 - Accused country sought to disprove allegation by triggering Article VII



 Article VII actions
 Alternatives

Issues that require resolution

- What are the concrete procedures for requesting assistance?
- What are the concrete procedures for mobilising and coordinating action of international organisations?
- Who is in charge?
 - For coordination?
 - For operations in the field?
- Given today's global health security context, what is the specific area BTWC States Parties should be concerned with? And what is their specific role?
 - BW use is an act of war
 - How does the UNSC determine BW use? How to organise an onsite investigation (fast)?
 - Under which circumstances can teams go into a warzone to offer assistance to victims of BW use?
 - Who takes responsibility if the UNSC fails to take appropriate decisions?

Tabletop Exercises for 2019

- **Two TTX planned**
 - West Africa, Francophone countries (early June)
 - Expanded exercise during 2019 MXs (August)
 - Funded by French MoFA; additional funders sought for the expanded TTX in August
 - Implemented by the BTWC ISU and the FRS
- **West Africa**
 - Expand discussion on Article VII to a different linguistic / cultural community
 - Builds on 2016 TTX and local experiences with Ebola outbreak
 - Will investigate local preparedness steps prior to crisis (infrastructure; agreements, etc.)
- **Expanded exercise**
 - Builds on insights from 2016 TTX
 - Will involve people from more professional categories and international organisations
 - Will likely involve a pathogen other than an Ebola-type of agent
 - Test what creates the 'crisis' moment
 - What if a BW attack involves a plant or animal pathogen? Or the disease is slow-moving?
 - Test possible roles of BTWC Articles V and VI

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