Establishment of a database for assistance in the framework of Article VII of the BTWC

India – France

BWC/MSP/2018/WP.7
Article VII of the BTWC

• « Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to provide or support assistance, in accordance with United Nations Charter, to any Party to the Convention which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such Party has been exposed to danger as a result of violation of the Convention. »
Article VII of the BTWC

• **A clause of collective security**: a danger resulting from the violation of the Convention concerns all countries including States Parties to the BTWC

• **A clause of solidarity**: each State Party is entitled to help and assistance in case of human-made biohazards

• **A deterrence effect**: a hostile entity must know that it may not succeed in its malicious intent due to the collective assistance available to the intended target
Article VII Assistance database

• Yet, till date no mechanism exists to invoke and implement Article VII of the BTWC

• The India France BWC/MSP/2018/WP.7 addresses a possible blueprint

• Allowing matching specific offers and requests for assistance and respond to specific needs

• Encompass both emergency assistance, containment measures and recovery assistance

• Concrete incentive for universalization of the Convention
Content of the database

Examine demands and/or offers for assistance, in three main fields:

1./ *non-monetary contributions*:
   - expertise;
   - information;

2./ *pre-exposure preparedness capacity building*:
   - protection;
   - detection;

3./ *post exposure response scenarios*:
   - decontamination;
   - prophylactic and containment measures.
Modalities for the use of the database

- Hosted on the BTWC website and to be maintained by the ISU
- Provide for a confidential clearing-house tool
- Easily searchable and accessible to States Parties
- Assistance offers from States Parties, individually or collectively, as well as from relevant IOs
- Could include agreed procedures for States Parties to seek and receive assistance
Advantages of the database

- Training and capacity building
- Create awareness regarding scientific, containment measures, operational logistic aspects
- Deterrence
- Harmonizing humanitarian and logistic responses in post-event scenario
- Platform to coordinate between international agencies and State Parties
- Does not require additional resources from the ISU (mainly rely on the information provided by States parties)
Way forward

• Autumn 2020 : study to be released on existing databases in IOs and lessons learned for Article VII database implementation

• Spring 2021 : India-France workshop on Article VII database in the margins of the MSP

• Autumn 2021 : Decision by the 9th Review Conference