Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X

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Article X of the Convention

(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 co-operate in contributing individually or together with other States or international organisations to the further development and application of scientific discoveries in the field of bacteriology (biology) for the 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 co-operation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities, including the international exchange of bacteriological (biological) agents 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.
In order to improve implementation of Article X, the Seventh Review Conference of BWC called upon States Parties to:

- 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.
MX.1: Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on Strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X:

- Consideration of the reports of the States Parties on their full and comprehensive implementation of all provisions of Article X;
- Review of the report by the ISU on the operation of the assistance and cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference and renewed by the Eighth Review Conference and consideration of its further operationalization, including measures to further strengthen the operation of the database, including in the light of BWC/MSP/2017/4;
- Identification of challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and possible ways and means of overcoming these;
- Development of guidelines and procedures for mobilizing resources, including financial resources on a voluntary basis to address gaps and needs;
- Facilitation of education, training, exchange and twinning programs and other means of developing human resources in biological sciences and technology related to implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;
- Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation;
- Collaboration with international organizations and networks related to combating infectious diseases at all levels, as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote implementation of all articles of the Convention.
The Assistance and Cooperation Database is a secure web-based platform for BWC States Parties. Facilitating the full implementation of Article X, this platform enables States Parties to submit requests and offers for assistance and cooperation on a voluntary basis individually or in collaboration with other states or international organizations. These exchanges may include requests and offers for equipment or information regarding the peaceful use of biological and toxin agents.

Available Offers

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on the map is not warranted to be error free nor does it necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Offers by Category

Offers and Requests per Year
International Workshop on Biosafety Laboratory Management and Techniques (2017-2019)

55 Trainees from 27 countries:
Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Croatia, D.R.Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Laos, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uzbekistan
Establishing a Non-proliferation Export Control and International Cooperation Regime under the Framework of the Biological Weapons Convention

Submitted by China and Pakistan

In order to improve global biological non-proliferation, facilitate international biotechnology cooperation, achieve the objective and purposes of the Convention, and strengthen global bio-security governance, China raised the proposal of “establishment of a non-proliferation export control regime under the framework of the Convention” at the Meeting of States Parties in 2013 and submitted the relevant working paper. Since the Meeting of States Parties 2015, China has conducted comprehensive and in-depth discussion with States Parties on the establishment of a non-proliferation export control regime. Many States Parties brought forward constructive opinions and suggestions, based on the opinions drawn from other States Parties and considering the starting point of the proposal, China decided to adjust its name to “a non-proliferation export control and international cooperation regime.”

It is imperative to establish a non-proliferation export control and international cooperation regime under the framework of the Convention. In the context of persistent threats posed by traditional biological weapons and increasing capability of certain activities, biological non-proliferation is of great significance to safeguarding global security and stability. Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference calls for appropriate measures, including effective national export controls, by all States Parties to control exports and transfers, and to ensure that direct and indirect transfers do not undermine the purpose of the Convention to prevent the development of biological weapons. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction also calls for a “transparent and verifiable system” to be established under the Convention. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in the Field of Microwaves and Infra-Red Radiation also calls for a “comprehensive verification mechanism” to be established under the Convention.

China’s Initiative: Balancing International Cooperation and Non-Proliferation...
International Cooperation in Combating COVID-19

Out of solidarity with other countries in fighting COVID-19, the Chinese people have shared full experience and done our best to assist the international community.

As of 20th October, China had provided assistance to 150 countries and seven international organizations and exported over 179 billion masks, 1.73 billion protective suits, and 543 million testing kits.
BEIJING - After announcing last week that it was preparing its fourth batch of aid, China on Friday pledged to continue to send assistance to those African countries struggling with the Ebola outbreak.

"China's assistance will not stop as long as the Ebola epidemic [continues] in West Africa," said director of the Foreign Ministry's African Affairs Department Lin Songtian.

Last week, President Xi Jinping announced aid worth $82 million, would be channeled to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, the countries most affected by the Ebola epidemic.

With this fresh batch of aid to the region, China has directed 122 million dollars to West African countries.

Following the outbreak of Ebola in February, China offered three batches of aid – in April, August and September respectively – to West African countries.

The latest round of assistance will finance the construction of a 100-bed treatment center in Liberia, where the epidemic is most serious.

The center, expected to be put to use within 30 days, will be managed and operated by an elite medical team from the People's Liberation Army (PLA), according to Lin.

The treatment center will be the only one in the three epidemic-stricken countries that is constructed, staffed and operated by a foreign country, Lin added.

The Chinese government has selected and trained 480 medical staff from the PLA to be sent to Liberia in three batches of 160 people.
Outcome of an International Workshop

"The Eighth Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference: Promoting BWC Implementation & Enhancing Global Biosecurity Governance"

Submitted by Canada and China

1. From 5 to 7 September 2016, the governments of Canada, the People's Republic of China and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit co-organized a workshop entitled "The Eighth Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference: Promoting BWC Implementation & Enhancing Global Biosecurity Governance". It was held in Wuxi, China, and included 63 participants from 32 States Parties, three regional or international organizations, and three non-governmental organizations or academic institutions. The venue was provided by the government of China, while Canada’s Global Partnership Program provided funding for, inter alia, travel and accommodation for sponsored participants.

2. This workshop enabled positive and constructive discussions in advance of the Review Conference, built upon the substantive work done at the August Preparatory Committee. Its agenda was framed around making progress towards a successful consensus outcome at the Review Conference, first on the themes discussed in the 2012-2015 intercessional process (science and technology review; international cooperation under Article X; national implementation; confidence building measures; and assistance under Article VII), and second in a more general manner (innovative strategies for strengthening the Convention; and new mechanisms for taking the Convention forward). Under these topics, presentations by invited experts informed free discussions among participants, guided by designated chairpersons.

3. The governments of Canada and China agree that this workshop was useful in laying the groundwork for a positive consensus outcome at the Eighth Review Conference. The three co-organizers of this workshop prepared a Workshop Summary, which is annexed to this working paper.
Thank you!

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