

IMPLICATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM RESPONSE TO THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK FOR THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Research Project to Inform Recommendations for the 8th Review
Conference

Thursday, December 17, 2015
0900-1000
Palais des Nations, Room XXIV
Geneva, Switzerland
Hosted by the United States of America

Last year, a number of BWC States Parties stressed the importance of learning from the Ebola outbreak response in order to strengthen Article VII of the Convention. This, however, raised a critical question: would the organizations and entities that the world relied upon to stop a naturally occurring event similarly respond to a suspected or confirmed deliberate event? And, as the global community examines how to improve effective and efficient response capacities, are there specific considerations the BWC community should be examining to ensure appropriate frameworks and capacities are in place for response to deliberate biological events?

This Side Event will:

- Provide an update the status of the study to investigate how international response to a deliberate event may be different from a naturally occurring outbreak.
- Review discussions from the August 7th UNIDIR/BWC ISU meeting on implications and lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa for the BWC.
- Update findings to date on how International Organizations, Nongovernmental Organizations and bilateral donors have planned for deliberate components to a humanitarian disaster response or events in non-permissive environments.
- Briefly review ongoing efforts in other fora to reform international response capabilities, and consider where gaps still remain.
- Discuss preliminary recommendations and solicit comments and suggestions from States Parties for a proposed work program for the next intersessional period.

AGENDA

- ❖ Opening remarks by U.S. Ambassador Robert Wood
- ❖ Presentation by Dr. Rebecca Katz (U.S. Department of State) and Dr. Matthew Lim (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- ❖ Comments from the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- ❖ Discussion on recommendations for topics to be discussed during the intersessional period.