



United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Strengthening global mechanisms for responding to deliberate use of disease

Side event promoted by the delegation of Canada
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Art VII/BWC

“Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to provide or support assistance, in accordance with the 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.”

Add. Understandings and Agreements Eighth RevCon:

- **“UN and other IOs** could also play an important role in **coordinating, mobilizing and delivering** the required **support and assistance ...**” (IGOs such as the **WHO, OIE, FAO, and IPPC**)
- ... the **need for a procedure** for assistance by which timely emergency assistance can be provided...





Key Challenges from BWC perspective

- Lack of operationalization of Article VII/BWC: all phases, from invoking Art VII up to on-site coordination issues
- No IO to oversee treaty implementation
 - No autonomous investigative capacity
 - No capacity for contingency preparations and ops.
 - No legal entity with contracting authority
- Decision by the Security Council required
- Currently, no UN Department or Office, or other international organization mandated to ensure overall coordination of response to a major deliberate disease outbreak

Strengthening global mechanisms and capabilities for responding to the deliberate use of disease

Overall Project objectives

- **Strengthened response preparedness** (policy coordination and resource sharing among relevant international organizations)
- **Strengthened international coordination capabilities** at the operational level in the event of a BW attack; and
- **Availability of operational procedures and tools** under the BWC at the disposal of BWC States Parties

Focus

Perspective



Art. VII

Final Aim: Effective support to States upon request

Funds from Canada (Weapons Threat Reduction Programme)

Cooperation and Synergies (UNOCT, WHO, INTERPOL, OIE, FAO, IPPC ...)





Project deliverables

Deliverables for Phase I (August 2017 – April 2018)

Preparation of a comprehensive feasibility study with the following outputs:

- **Comprehensive report** on key challenges with respect to inter-agency coordination in response to deliberate use of biological agents/BWC perspective ✓
- **Key processes mapped out** ✓
- **Roles and responsibilities** of the main international organizations analyzed ✓
- **First draft skeleton of an International Bio-Emergency Management Framework** for deliberate events ✓

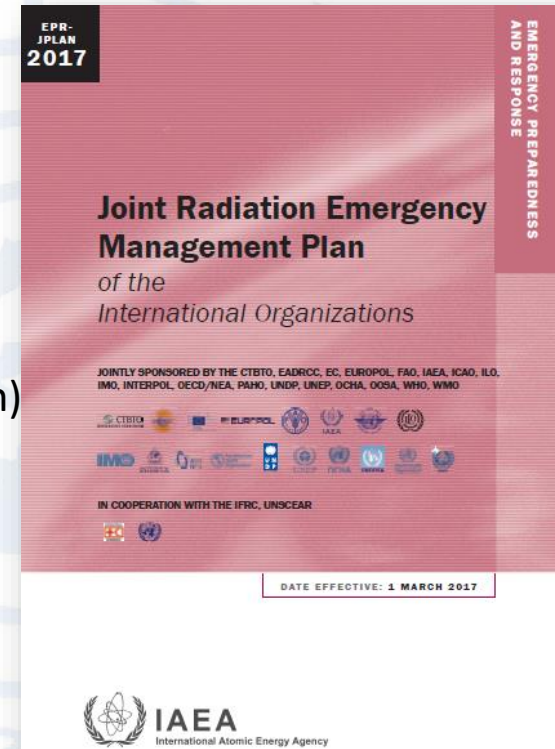


Deliverables for Phase II (August 2018– December 2019)

- **Advanced draft of an International Bio-Emergency Management Framework for Deliberate Events**, including development of proposed Standard Operation Procedure(s) (SOPs) and guidance for the purposes of the Framework
- **Support to States Parties' deliberations** in the context of the 2018-2020 BWC ISP
- Consider **information exchange platform** among international organizations

International Bio-Emergency Management Framework for Deliberate Events

- Model (UNOCT recommendation): **IAEA Joint Radiation Emergency Plan of the International Organizations (“J-Plan”)**
- **Non-binding document for International Organizations**
- **Contribute to a coordinated and harmonized international response**
- Provide **common understanding** of
 - Roles and responsibilities of each IO
 - Preparedness and response arrangements and actions of each IO
 - Overall CONOPS among IOs (human, animal, plant health)
- **Proposed Structure:**
 - I. Introduction
 - II. Guiding Principles for Coordinated Response
 - III. Concepts of operations
 - IV. Preparedness
 - V. Appendices
- **Key information for States**



UN Disarmament Agenda (2018)

Disarmament to save humanity:
“Ensuring respect for norms against
chemical and biological weapons”

Action point:

The **Office for Disarmament Affairs** will work with all relevant United Nations entities to contribute to **developing a framework that ensures a coordinated international response to the use of biological weapons**





For more information ...

www.unog.ch/bwc

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