



Assistance Following a Deliberate Biological Event

*Operationalizing Article VII of the
Biological and Toxins Weapons
Convention*

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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
Georgetown University Medical Center
Center for Global Health Science and Security

Presentation Overview

- I. Background
- II. Pathways to Requesting Assistance
- III. RFA Procedures, Policies, & Templates
- IV. Recommendations



Background

- After over 4 decades, several obstacles to the operationalization of Article VII of the BWC
- No documented standard operating procedures or guidelines for requesting assistance in response to a treaty violation

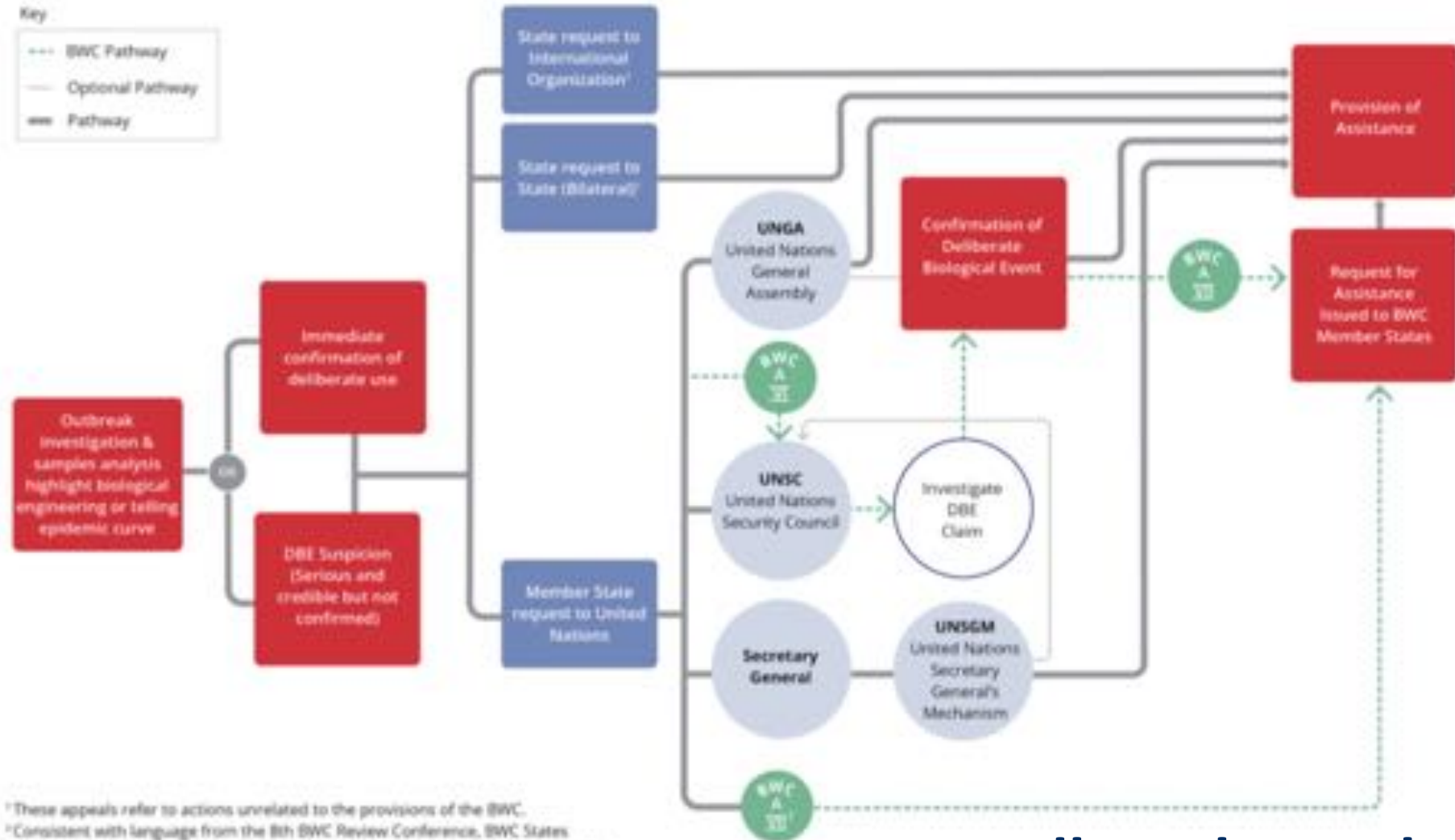


Objectives

- Identify which routes for requesting assistance
- Identify best practices
- Validate previous proposals
- Suggest guidelines for making requests for assistance



Pathways for Requesting Assistance



¹ These appeals refer to actions unrelated to the provisions of the BWC.
² Consistent with language from the 8th BWC Review Conference, BWC States Parties may submit a provisional request for assistance under Article VII to other BWC States Parties, pending a determination by the UNSC.

RFA Procedures, Policies & Templates

Formal RFA Processes Identified		Alternative RFA Processes Identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Australia▪ Canada▪ France▪ Japan▪ UK▪ USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ASEAN▪ EU▪ IAEA▪ OPCW▪ NATO▪ UNOCHA▪ UNODA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO• OIE• WHO

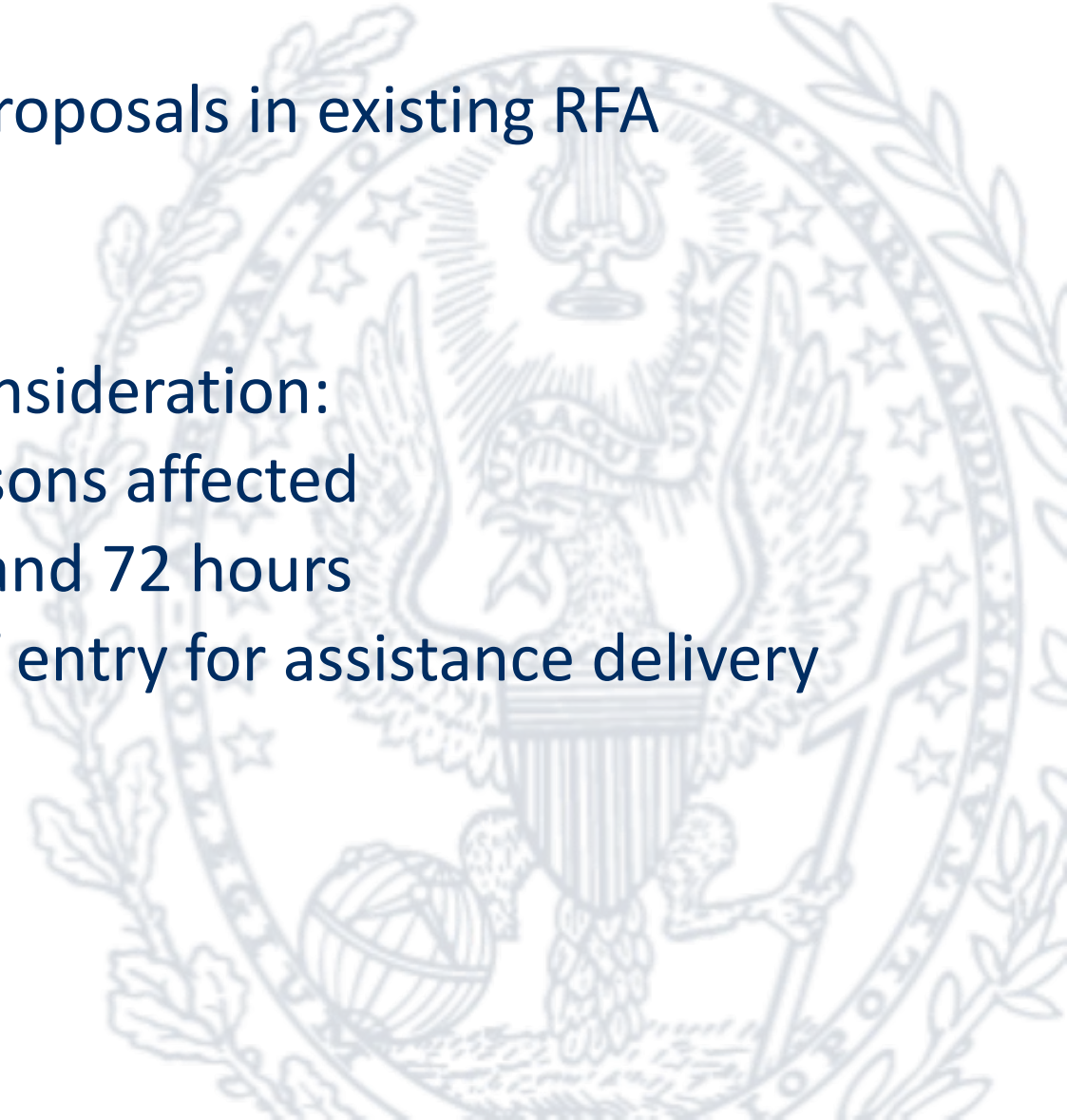
RFA Procedures, Policies & Templates

- Most RFA processes:
 - Are supported by policy or legislative instruments
 - Include a predesignated authority
- We identified 11 entities that had:
 - Formal standardized RFA forms
 - RFA guidelines and templates
- Key RFA form elements were identified and compared



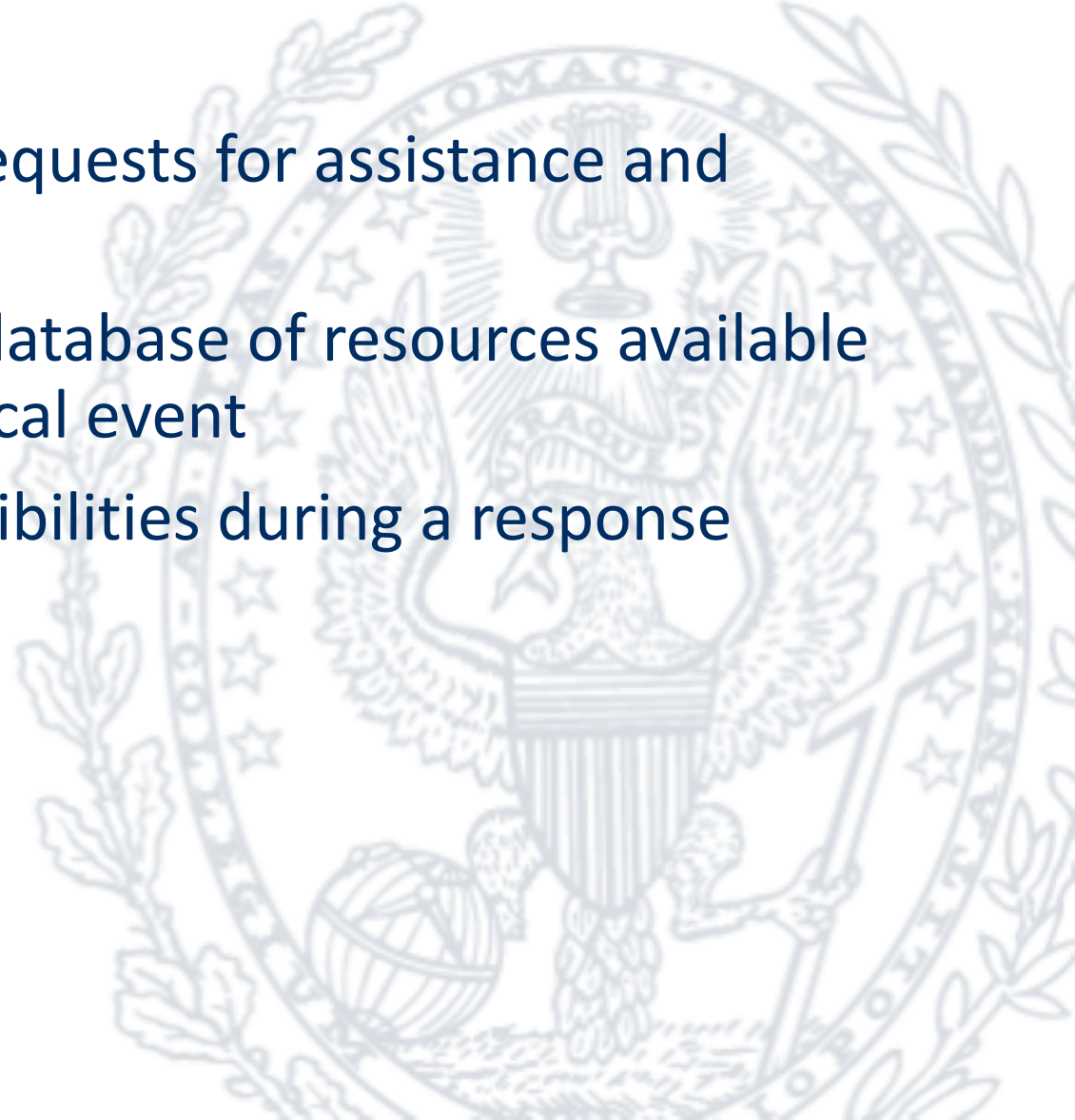
RFA Procedures, Policies & Templates

- Identified most elements of previous proposals in existing RFA templates
- Identified three additional items for consideration:
 1. An estimate of the number of persons affected
 2. Prognoses for the coming 24, 48, and 72 hours
 3. Information regarding the point of entry for assistance delivery



Governance Recommendations

- Predesignating a center for receiving requests for assistance and coordinating response activities
- Regularly maintaining and updating a database of resources available for the response to a deliberate biological event
- Identifying triggers for shifting responsibilities during a response

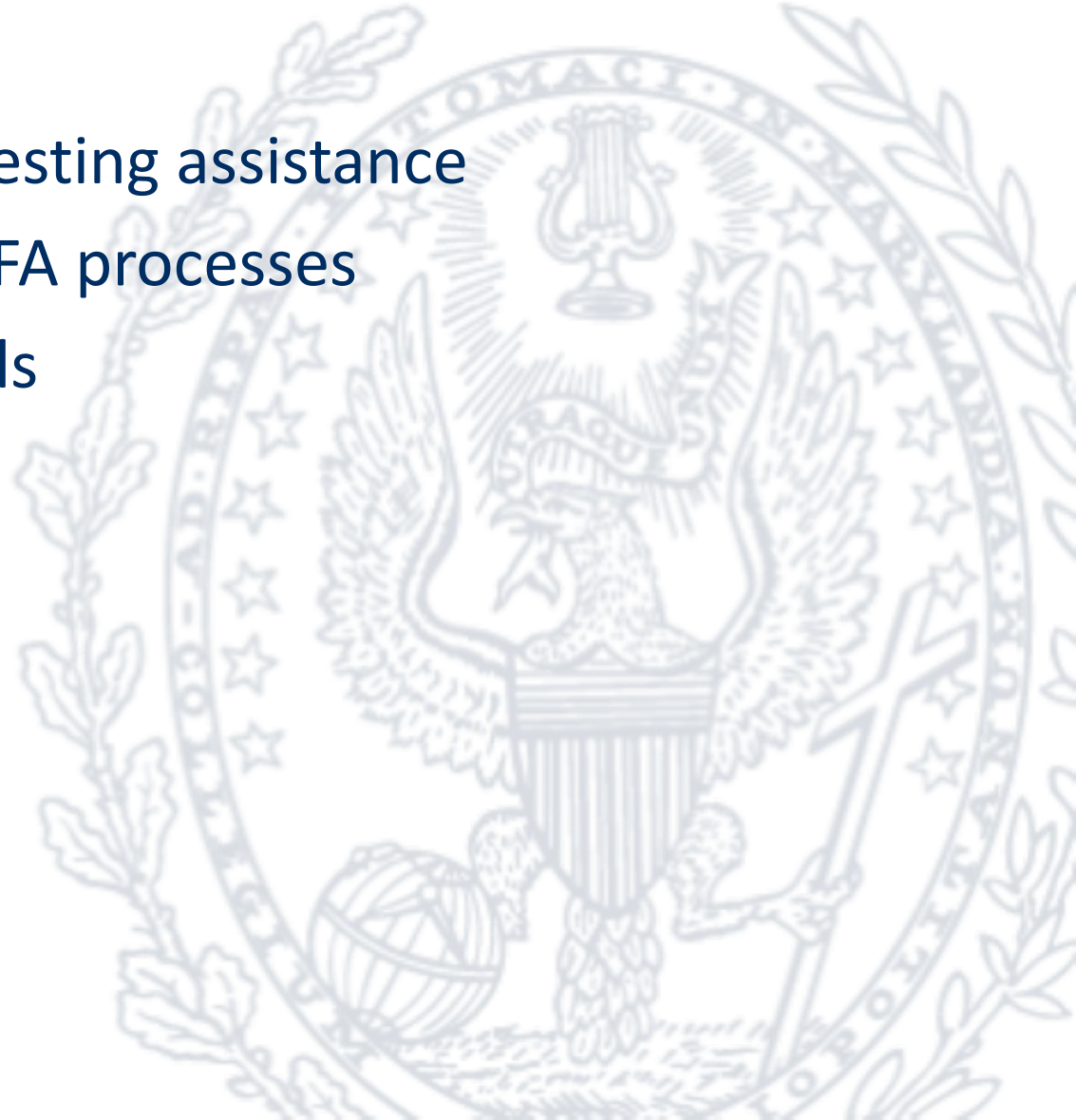


Process Recommendations



Summary

- A multitude of pathways exist for requesting assistance
- There are commonalities for existing RFA processes
- Our findings support previous proposals
- Proposed RFA templates available



Acknowledgement & Thanks

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Thank you!

Questions?

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