



Analysis of Lessons Learned from Assistance Databases of International Organizations for the establishment of a database in the framework of Article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention

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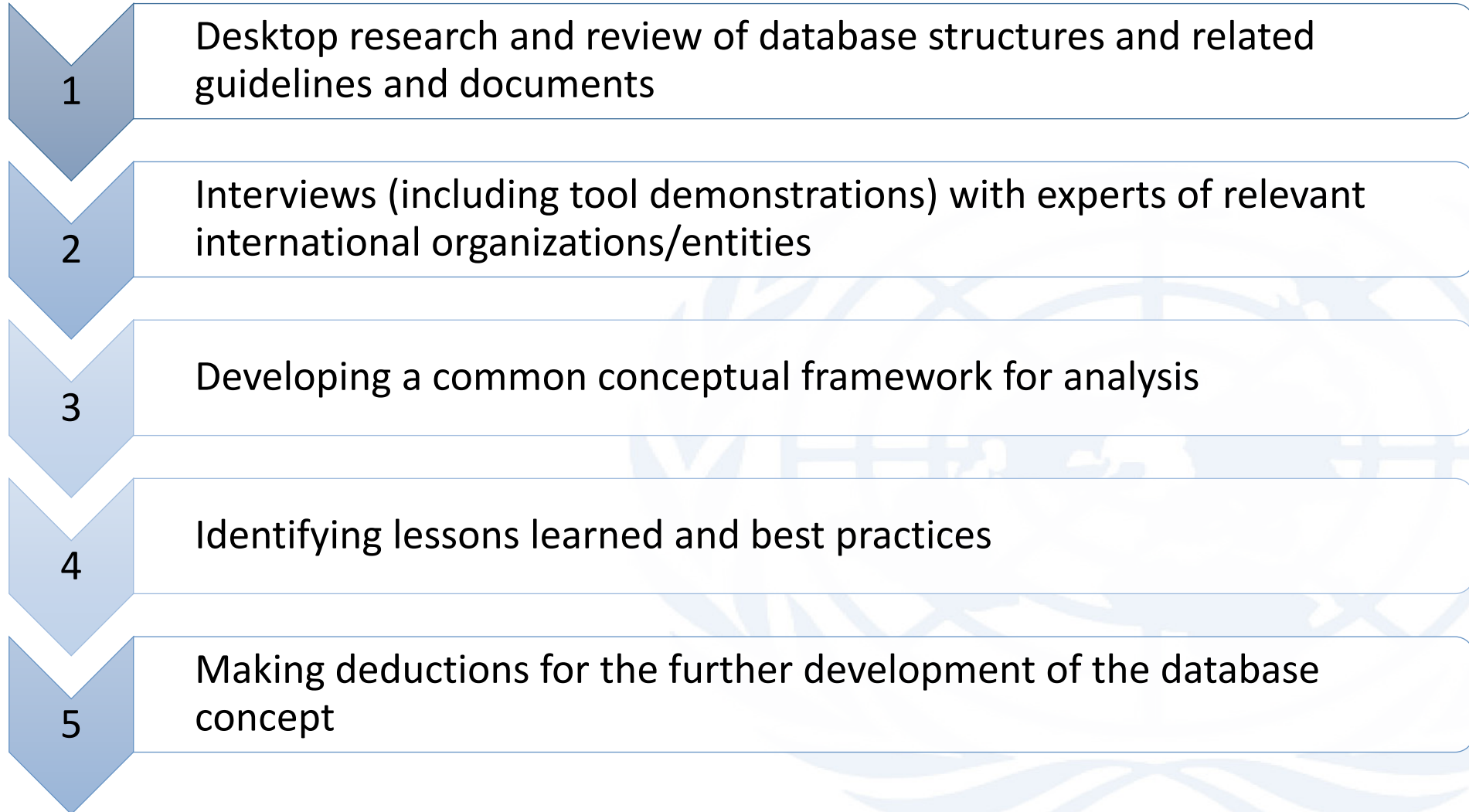
Background and Objective of the study

The study was conducted thanks to an extrabudgetary contribution from France to contribute to the preparatory work needed for the further development of the concept of an Article VII database as supported by the Eighth Review Conference and in the context of the Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness:

- Identifying lessons learned and best practices from assistance databases operated by relevant international organizations
- Outlining specific issues that could be addressed by States Parties for the operationalization of the database concept and suggest possible options for consideration in this context



Methodology



Assistance Databases

Organization/Entity	Database	Overview
IAEA Link	Response and Assistance Network (RANET)	Platform for registration of assistance capabilities, matching requests/offers of assistance and initial coordination of response through the USIE
OCHA Link	Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)	Interactive real-time coordination platform through alert and mobilization of rapid response teams (rosters) and real-time entry of mobilizing relief teams
OCHA-INSARAG Link	Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Teams Directory	Directory with lists (rosters) of USAR teams per region and per country (linked to virtual OSOCC)
OPCW Link	Protection and Assistance Databank (PAD)	Platform allowing for upload, download and search of data provided by States Parties under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention
WHO Link	Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Database	Repository of (classified) emergency medical teams and platform for national teams to register and apply for classification
BWC-ISU Link	Article X (Assistance and Cooperation) Database	Database facilitating and recording requests and offers of assistance and any resulting cooperation and assistance among States Parties
Stimson Center Link	1540 Assistance Support Initiative Database	Searchable database storing programmes available to support the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540



Key Findings

- Database reliance on existing assistance framework and institutional background
- Possible database objectives and functions: information exchange, registry of resources, matchmaking of requests/offers of assistance, communication and coordination, preparedness and capacity-building, communication and coordination, awareness-raising
- Gradual/modular approach to database development and implementation
- Importance of information exchange and advance registration resources and capabilities
- Essential elements of a regularly used database: database features, proactive outreach and periodic upgrades



Best Practices

- Enhancing visibility of database benefits and added value of the tool
- Integrating capacity-building and training components in the database
- Promoting the readiness of assistance resources through the development of guidelines and the regular conduct of simulation exercises
- User-friendly interface with intuitive and interactive workflows and attractive functionalities
- Development and periodic upgrades in close collaboration with users



Issues for Further Consideration

- Which specific objectives and functions may be considered for an Article VII database?
- Which types and categories of assistance resources or capabilities may be considered for an Article VII database?
- Who may be registered as user of an Article VII database? Who should have access?
- What features could be prioritized in the initial development phase of an Article VII database?
- What are the resource implications for the development and maintenance of the database?



Thank you

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