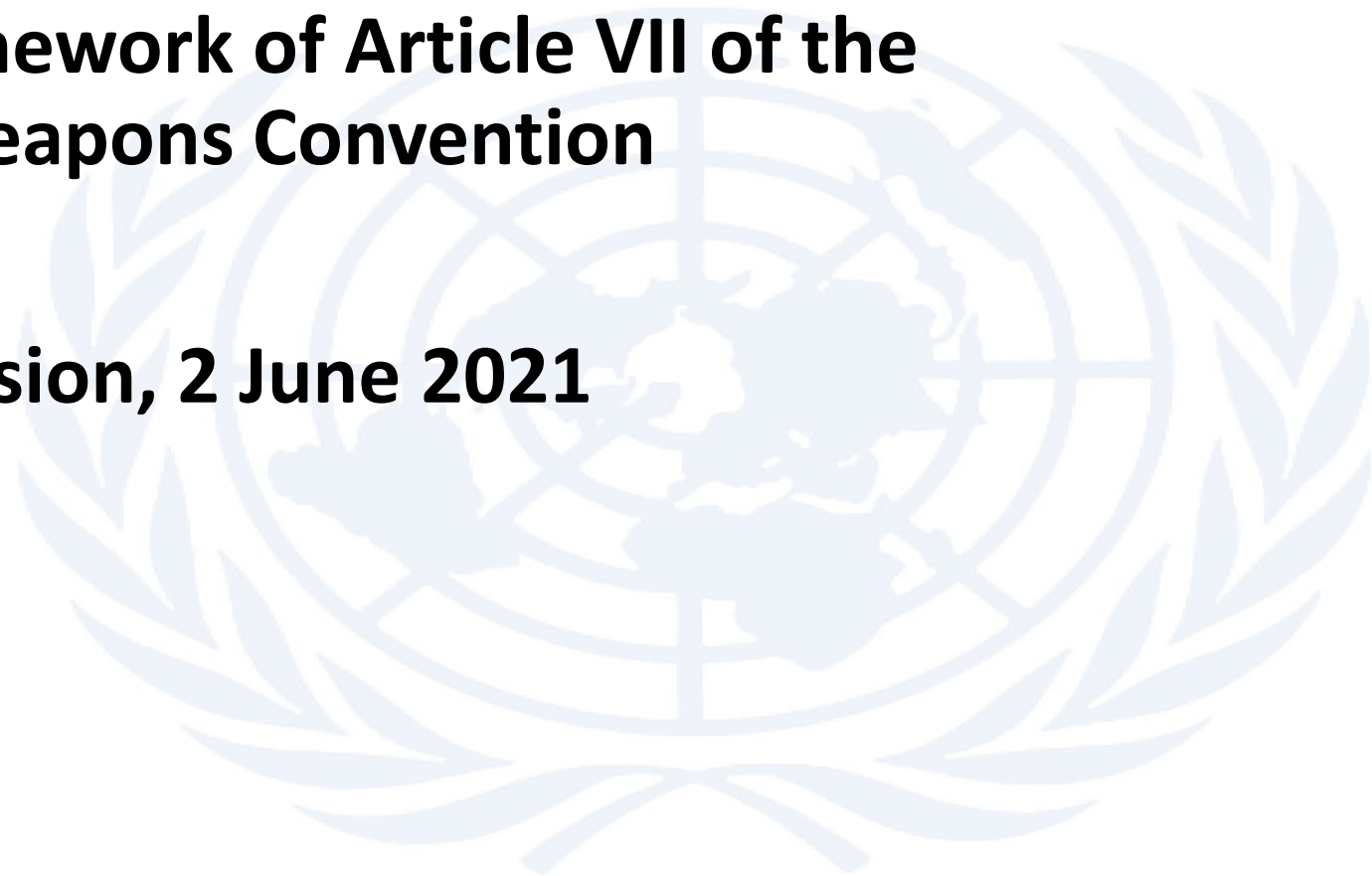




Online Workshop on the establishment of a database in the framework of Article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention

Briefing Session, 2 June 2021





WEBINAR RULES

- **Options to engage in the discussion:**
 - Raise your hand through the icon in “Reactions” should you wish to take the floor and/or send a message through the chat
 - Provide your input or questions through the chat. If you wish to submit your questions/comments privately, please send to “Host ”
- Please have **microphones muted** throughout the webinar
- The webinar will be **recorded** for those unable to attend and the **presentation will be made available**



Background

- The workshop is part of a series of events and briefings planned during 2021-2022 to support deliberations among States Parties towards the eventual establishment of an Article VII database by the Ninth Review Conference
- The aim of the workshop is to gather technical input on key issues for the operationalization of the database and related topics, based on the analysis of lessons learned from assistance databases utilized in relevant international organizations, which was conducted in November 2020
- The workshop is structured around three sessions, on 4 May, 12 May and 2 June 2021

For further information, see [Background Document](#)



Objective of the Session

- The objective of today's session is to provide an overview and an opportunity for discussion of preliminary findings on possible elements and outstanding issues for the operationalization of an Article VII database, based on the technical input gathered during the sessions held on 4 and 12 May 2021.
- During the session on **4 May**, technical input was provided based on lessons learned from assistance databases of international organizations. The recording and supporting documents for the session may be found [HERE](#).
- During the session on **12 May**, technical input was provided through the identification and discussion of specific topics that may require attention for the operationalization of the proposal. The recording and supporting documents for the session may be found [HERE](#).



Agenda

- Presentation of preliminary findings on four thematic topics
 - Objectives and functions for an Article VII database
 - Types and categories of assistance resources or capabilities
 - Users and Access
 - Database Development and Maintenance
- Further feedback via live polling
- Discussion and Q&A Session
- Wrap-up and Closing: Next Steps





Preliminary Findings - Live Polling





Preliminary Findings and Feedback 1

Database Objectives and Functions

| Objectives and Functions | Benefits |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Awareness-raising | A source of general information on preparing and responding to the use of a biological or toxin weapon to contribute to public awareness on the subject |
| Resource registry | A platform for registration of assistance resources or capabilities that could be made available for assisting to preparedness and response to the use of a biological or toxin weapon |
| Information exchange | A source of relevant information for BWC States Parties on preparing and responding to the use of a biological or toxin weapon |
| Preparedness and capacity-building | A source of information on capacity building opportunities and a platform for matching requests and offers of assistance to enhance bio-preparedness |
| Matchmaking | A platform for submitting and eventually matching offers and requests for assistance to facilitate coordination and response |



Preliminary Findings and Feedback 1 Database Objectives and Functions

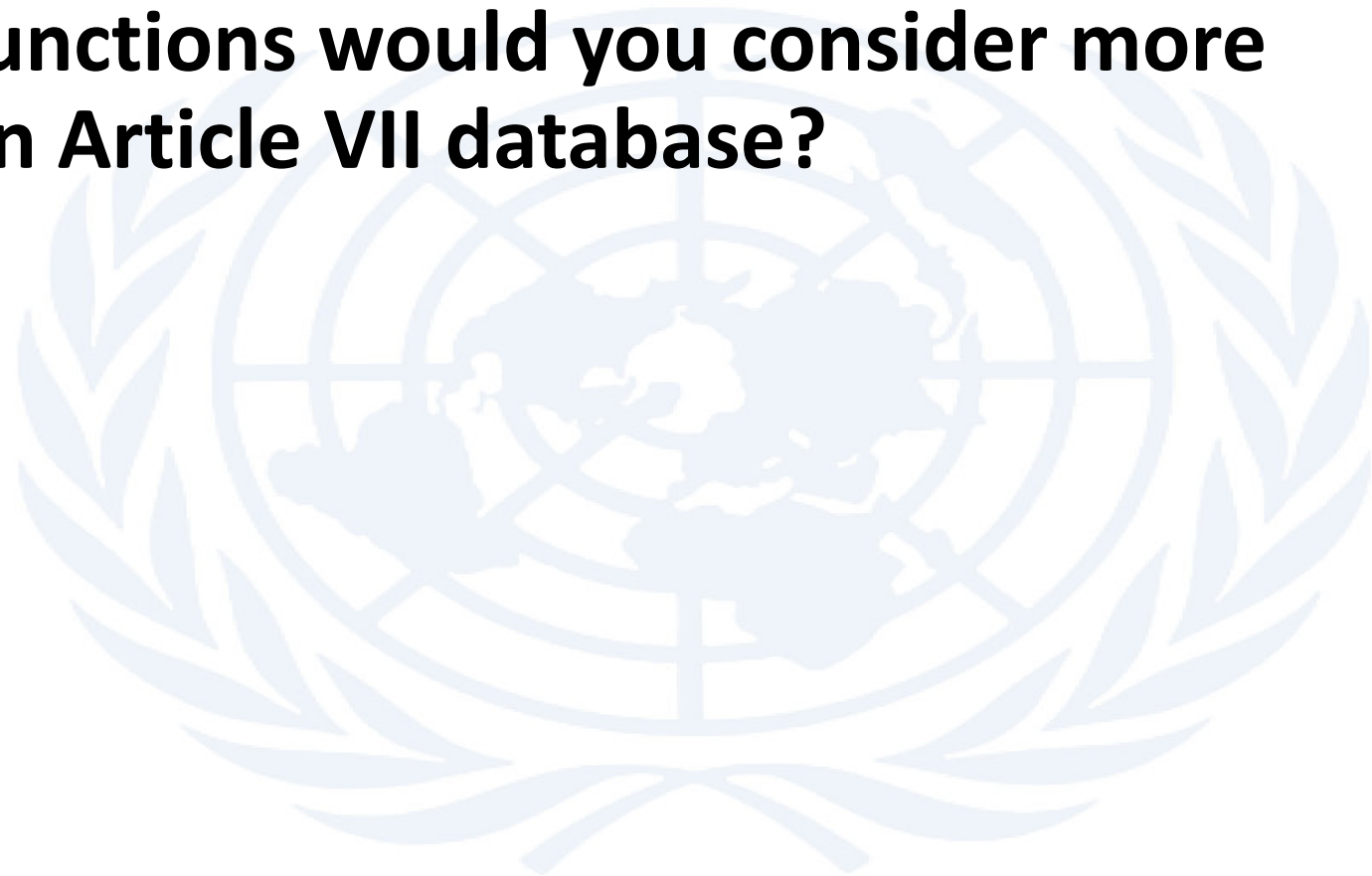
- Advantages of a wide range of database functions, which complement each other
- Need to consider cost implications
- Initial focus on objectives and functions that may be operationalized in the short-term





Live Polling

Which objectives and functions would you consider more useful for an Article VII database?





Preliminary Findings and Feedback 2

Types of Assistance Resources

| Types of Assistance Resources | Benefits |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Information | Ensuring the identification and readiness of assistance resources is one of the main goals of assistance databases |
| Expertise | |
| Capacity-Building | |
| Field Teams | |
| Services | |
| In-kind Contributions | Availability of resources for types of assistance requiring funding |
| Financial Contributions | |



Preliminary Findings and Feedback 2

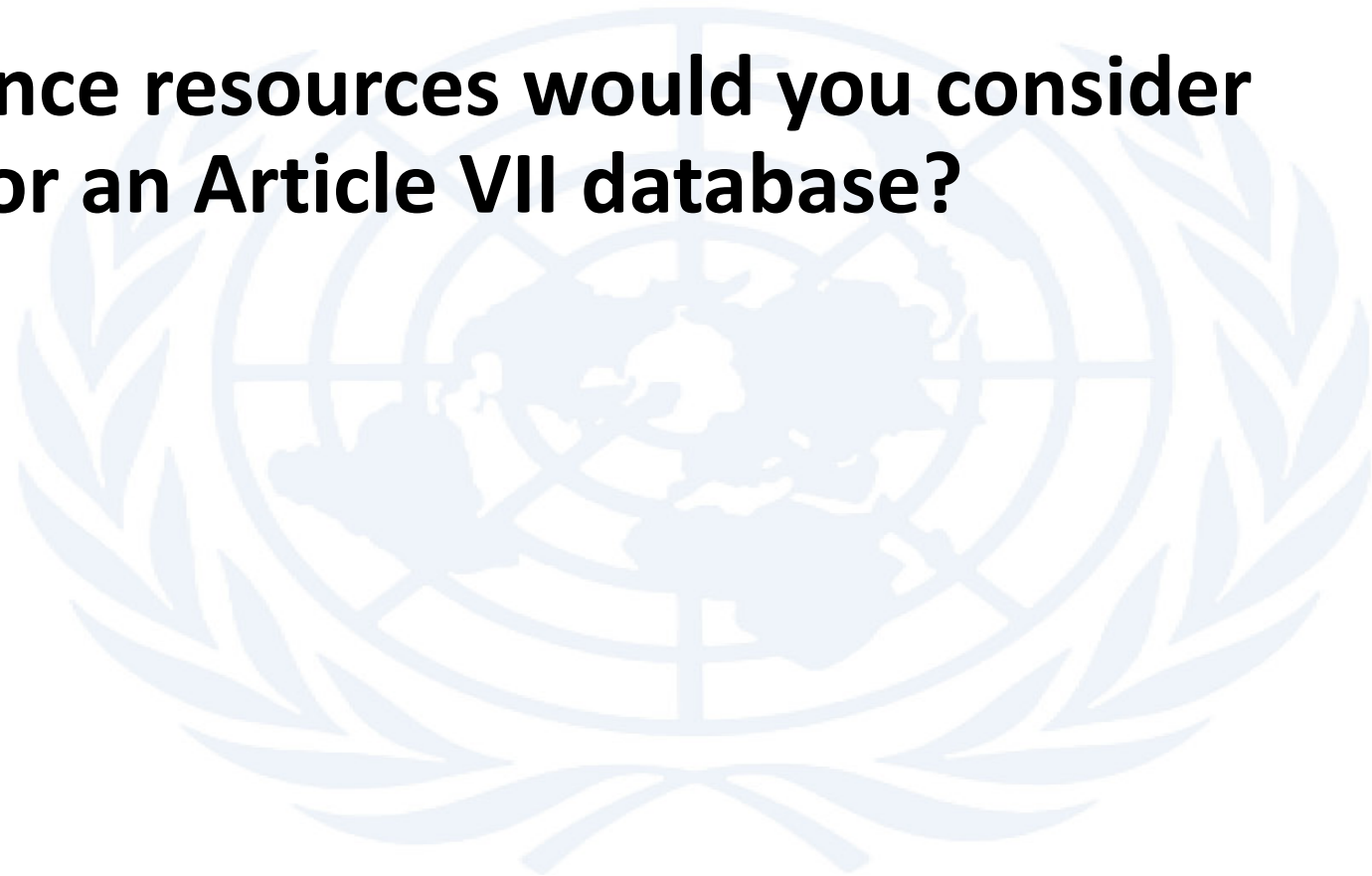
Types of Assistance Resources

- Assistance offers could emanate from SPs as well as relevant IOs
- Advance registration of resources shows an availability in principle to provide assistance upon request
- Specific offers of assistance once a request has been submitted
- Importance of illustrative guidance on types of resources to facilitate matchmaking
- Regular renewal/update of registered resources crucial
- Institutional or agency focus for registration of expertise
- Consider different implications for assistance during deliberate events



Live Polling

What types of assistance resources would you consider more useful for an Article VII database?





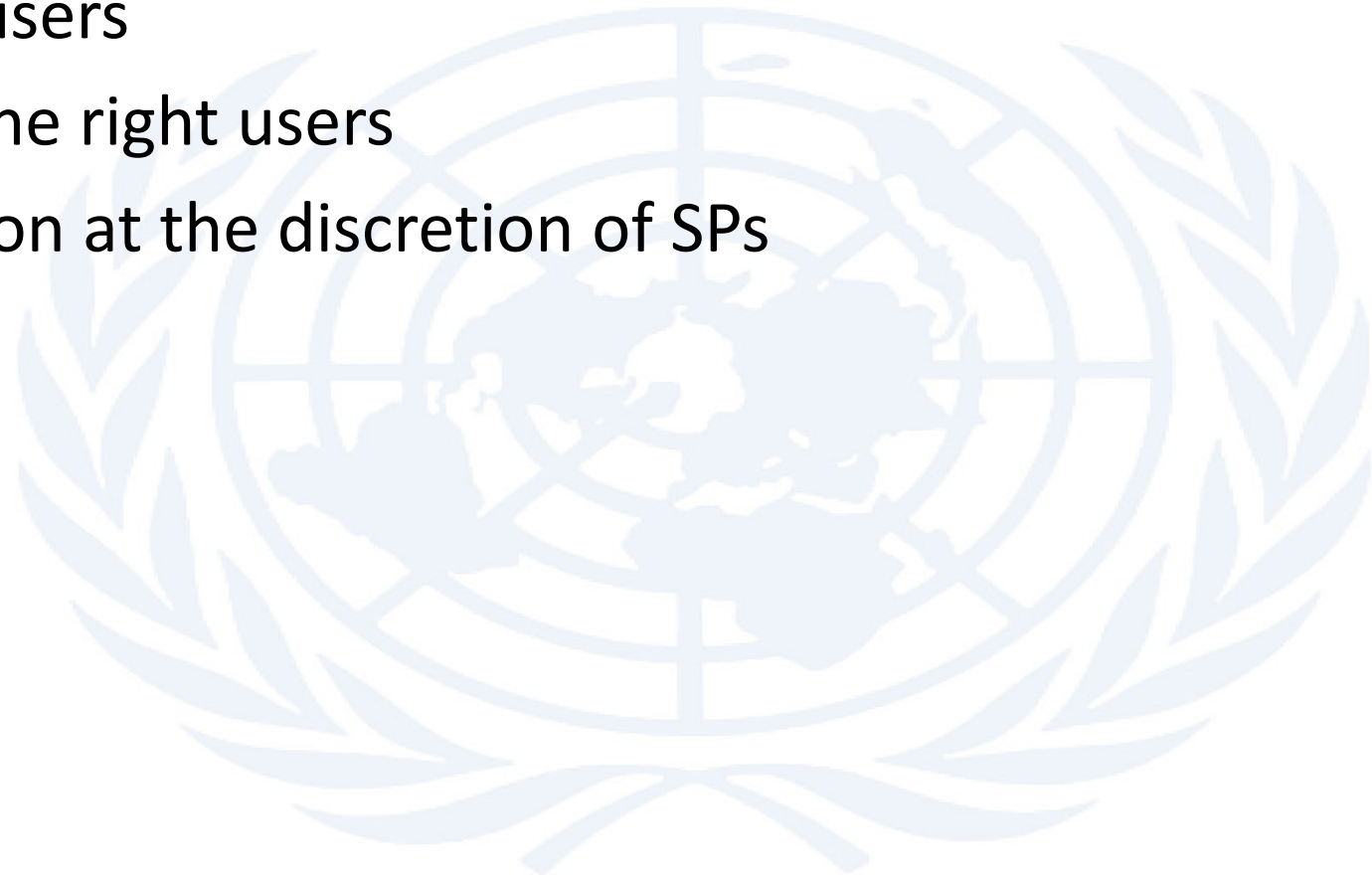
Preliminary Findings and Feedback 3 Users and Access

| Users | Benefits |
|-------------------------|---|
| Users designated by SPs | Granting access to all Government actors engaged in preparedness and response and promoting national coordination |
| Users designated by IOs | Avoiding duplications and facilitating coordination with existing international response mechanisms |



Preliminary Findings and Feedback 3 Users and Access

- Focus on officially designated users from SPs and IOs
- Outsourcing data entry to users
- Importance of identifying the right users
- Publicly available information at the discretion of SPs





Live Polling

In your view, who would be the main users/beneficiaries of an Article VII database at the national level?





Preliminary Findings and Feedback 4 Database Development and Maintenance

- Consider a modular or phased approach for the development of the database, taking into account feedback from SPs and users
- An exercise to gather information from States Parties on materials, agencies, training resources, laboratory services, etc. could be useful for database development.
- Favor database features that contribute to enhance the visibility of database benefits and its regular use
- Choose a user-friendly interface that incorporates intuitive and interactive and attractive functionalities
- Make use of existing software suites to facilitate IT maintenance of the database tool and ensure compatibility with other BWC tools (eCBM platform, Art. X Database)
- Consider a consolidated approach for all BWC related tools to prevent duplications (e.g., a single website with access to secure websites with different access levels)



Live Polling

Which features do you think could be the prioritized ones during an initial phase of database development?





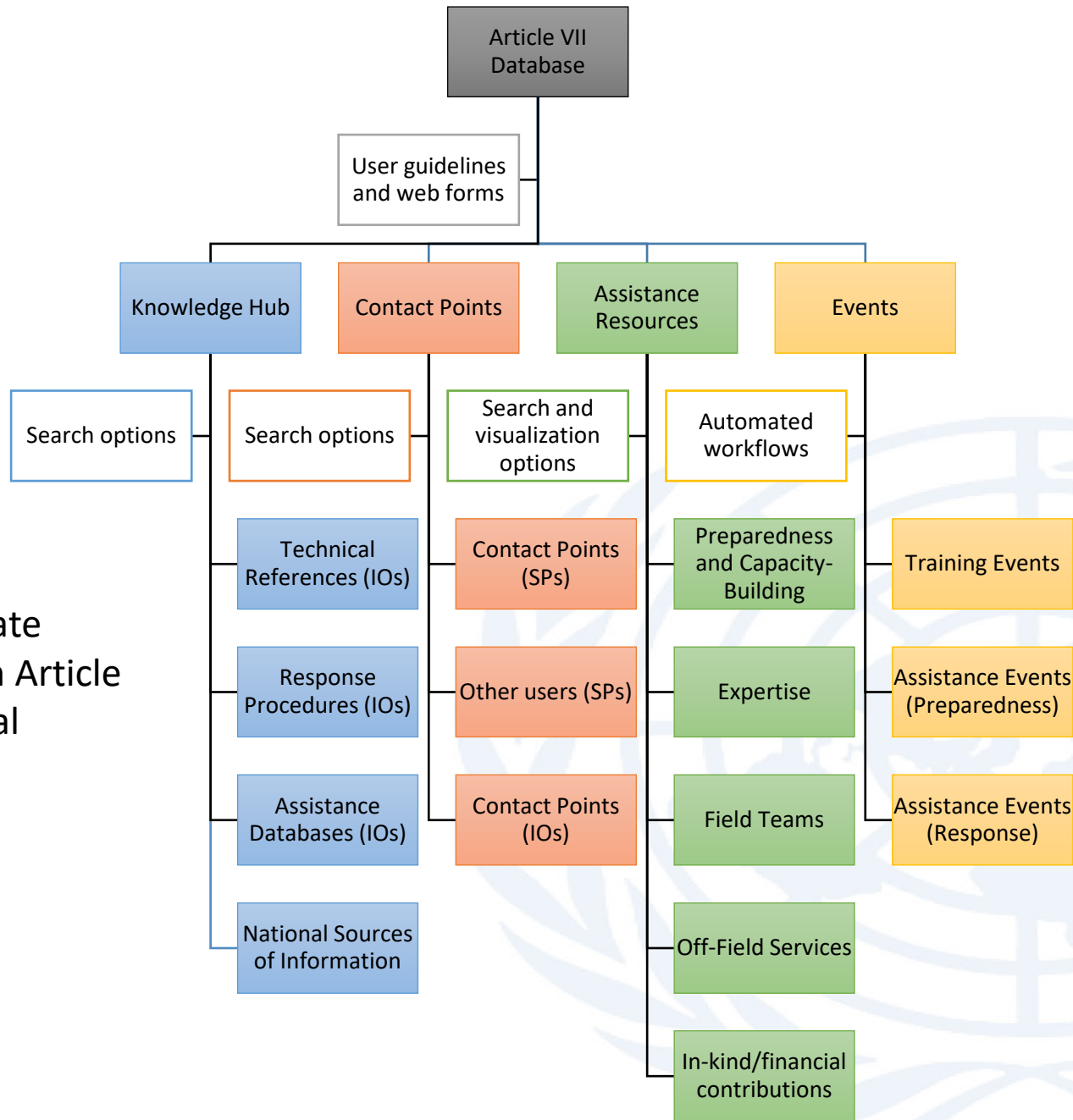
Preliminary Findings and Feedback 4

Resource implications

- In terms of responsibilities linked to managing access, authenticating data, and supporting submissions by users, the ISU could assume the role of administrator of an Article VII database within existing resources
- The development of the database and user interface tool itself in its various phases, as well as periodic upgrades or new database features would require dedicated IT support and related funding to be made available, as the ISU does not have IT developer expertise



Diagram to facilitate visualization of an Article VII database portal





Overview of possible issues for further consideration

- Illustrative guidance on types and categories of assistance resources
- Relation and harmonization with Article X Database
- Categories and rights of users
- Information that may be made publicly available
- Procedures for requests and offers of assistance under Article VII
- Cost estimate for development of IT tool



Discussion and Q&A Session





Further Feedback

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Please send us any comments, feedback or questions you may have on the BWC Article VII database concept

