



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Federal Public Service

**Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation**

BTWC

**MX2: Review of Developments in the Field of Science and
Technology Related to the Biological Weapons Convention**

1-2 September 2021

**Biorisk management standards and their
role in BTWC implementation**

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their
Destruction**

27 October 2020

English only

2020 Meeting

Geneva, 12-15 April 2021

**Meeting of Experts on Review of developments in the field
of science and technology related to the Convention**

Geneva, 3-4 December 2020

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Biological risk assessment and management

**Biorisk management standards and their role in
BTWC implementation**

**Submitted by Austria, Belgium, Chile, France, Germany, Iraq, Ireland,
Netherlands, Spain and Thailand**



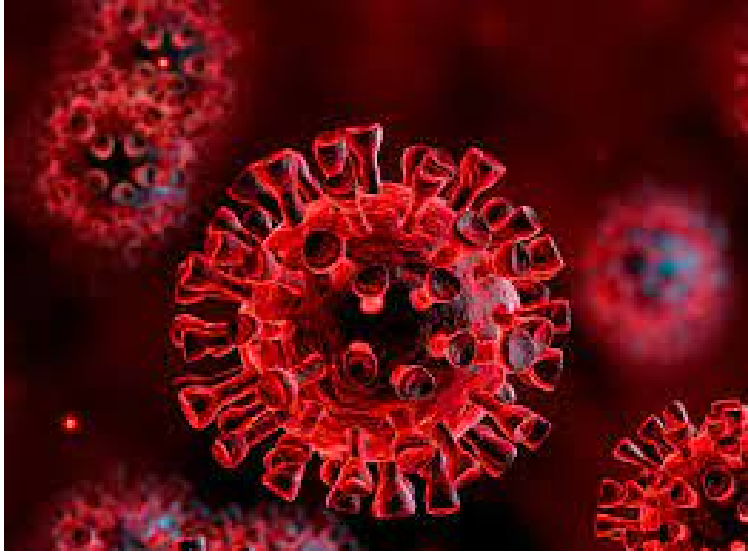
Article IV of the BTWC:

Each State Party to this Convention shall, in accordance with its constitutional processes, take any necessary measures to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in article I of the Convention, within the territory of such State, under its jurisdiction or under its control anywhere.

2011 Final Declaration of the 7th RevCon BTWC, article 13:

The Conference notes the value of national implementation measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the constitutional process of each State Party, to: (a) implement voluntary management standards on biosafety and biosecurity; (b)





- Increased awareness about potentially disruptive impact of biothreats
- Expansion of (high containment) biology labs
- Uneven application of biosafety and biosecurity practices.



- Different national and regional norms for biosafety and biosecurity management exist.
- In November 2019 a global standard was published: ISO 35001 (Biorisk management for laboratories and other related organisations).
- ISO 35001 harmonizes existing national and regional standards and thus establishes a uniform set of best practices for biorisk management that can be applied and certified on a global scale.



Recommendations of working paper BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/WP.2

01

Recognize importance of biorisk management and role of biorisk management standards in BTWC implementation

02

Continue the dialogue with biosafety associations and international standards organizations (intersessional programme)

03

Encourage assistance to help implement standards, in line with Article X



- Industrial standards are no substitute for the national responsibility of States Parties to implement the BTWC.
- Industrial standards are however a powerful tool to reinforce biosafety and biosecurity.
- The development of industrial standards that can be applied globally, provides the opportunity to strengthen biorisk management worldwide and consequently to strengthen BTWC implementation globally.

