

Implementation of Article X of the Convention

Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit

France

1. The covid-19 pandemic, with its highly disruptive effect on our societies, has recalled the importance of the biological issue that the international community is confronted to. Due to its potentially worldwide impact, the biological issue is a global challenge that must be tackled in all its dimensions: sanitary, economic and social, safety but also industrial and innovative.
2. In this regard, research, production and innovations in civil biological field induce biosafety and biosecurity stakes. Indeed, civil biological activities are rapidly growing, notably in the research field of biotechnologies.
3. To face these challenges, France proposes to its partners of the Convention a collaborative project in the form of on-line library on biosafety and biosecurity. It could take the form of a multidisciplinary digital area dedicated to biosafety and biosecurity: SecBio.
4. SecBio is intended to be a development support tool in the field of biosafety and biosecurity. In this respect, this project contributes to the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). In particular, this project is in line with the provisions of Article X of the Convention in that it aims to facilitate the exchange of information for peaceful purposes.
5. SecBio is intended to be an international online platform for biosafety and biosecurity. It is an interactive tool to inform, train and connect biosafety and biosecurity stakeholders. The online Platform will be accessible to all States Parties and international organizations which will be able to both use the Platform and nourish it. The Platform is intended to be available in all six official UN languages.
6. There are three main features within SecBio:
 - (i) a searchable repository for biosafety and biosecurity legal framework, treaties, laws, regulations, case law, norms, standards and best practices, as well as scientific publications;
 - (ii) a learning module for users to build a project and challenge their knowledge;
 - (iii) a forum for expert's networking to exchange information, data and best practices.

7. The use of this tool by States Parties could allow the Platform to become the international reference on the issue and therefore increase the global biosafety and biosecurity level playing field./.