Ninth Review Conference 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

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda
Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions of the Eighth Review Conference and the question of future review of the Convention

Proposal to enhance the format of confidence-building measures under the Biological Weapons Convention

Submitted by the Russian Federation

1. In order to serve its purpose in a satisfactory manner the format of confidence-building measures should keep pace with time and be responsive to the challenges emerging in the fields relevant to the BWC.

2. One such highly relevant field with a direct bearing on the object and purpose of the Convention concerns biological defence programmes implemented by ministries of defence and, in a more general sense, militaries' activities in preventing and controlling infectious diseases. The two are clustered together since they often represent various aspects of the same activity and in certain situations it may become difficult to separate them.

3. A topical case is a biomedical activity carried out by research units controlled by Ministries of Defence of States Parties deployed outside of the national territory. Regrettably, States Parties concerned do not submit information in this regard under existing confidence-building measures. This constitutes a serious drawback of the current regime since the lack of such transparency is not conducive to strengthening confidence. Guided by these considerations, the Russian Federation proposes to introduce a new confidence-building measures form entitled "Military biomedical activity conducted by a reporting State on the territory of other States" (see Annex I).

4. A second proposal is to supplement Form G's information on human vaccine production facilities with similar data on animal vaccine production facilities (see Annex II). Bearing in mind comparable relevance of these two categories of facilities, it is expected that an expanded information exchange will fill in the blank spots and foster confidence among States Parties.

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Annex I

Addition to Form A part 2 iv): National biological defence research and development programmes

Description Add paragraph 8 as follows:

Provide a declaration in accordance with Form A, part 2 iv) for each research unit controlled by the Ministry of Defence of the reporting State which is deployed outside of the territory of such State to conduct research, development and evaluation in the field of biological defence or in the field of infectious disease prevention and control.

Add new Form:

Form A, part 2 iv) Military biomedical activity conducted by a reporting State on the territory of other States

1. Complete a form for each research unit in accordance with paragraph 8 in Form A, part 2 iv).

(a) Are there any research units controlled by the Ministry of Defence of the reporting State deployed outside of the territory of such State to conduct research, development and evaluation in the field of biological defence or in the field of infectious disease prevention and control? Yes/No

2. If the answer is Yes, complete this form.

(a) What is the name of the research unit and its hosting facility?

(b) Where is it located (include both address and geographical location)?

(c) Floor area occupied by the research unit .... (sqM)

Including:

Buildings..... (sqM)

Laboratories..... (sqM)

Production facilities..... (sqM)

Sites ..... (sqM)

(d) Name biological agents and toxins that the research unit conducts work with including locally endemic agents and toxins

(e) Does the research unit have access at its host facility to areas with biological containment? .....Yes/No

3. If the answer is Yes, indicate the floor area of biological containment:

BL2: ..... (sqM)

BL3: ..... (sqM)

BL4: ..... (sqM)

Total floor area of biological containment:..... (sqM)

(f) List the types and parameters of equipment available to the research unit:

i. Fermenters (all types of bioreactors for batch and continuous-flow cell cultivation) with volume of 20 litres or greater enabling production of pathogens or toxins without the propagation of the aerosol:.....Yes/No

ii. Centrifuges capable of continuous-flow separation of pathogenic microorganisms without the propagation of the aerosol and possessing all

of the following characteristics: one or more sealing joints within the steam containment area; a flow rate greater than 100 litres per hour; and are capable of in situ steam sterilisation in a closed state: .....Yes/No

iii. Specially designed equipment components for cross-flow (tangential) filtration (such as modules, cassettes and cartridges) with at least 0.2 square meter filtration area:.....Yes/No

iv. Biological safety cabinets Class III or containment units with similar performance standards (such as flexible isolators, dry boxes, anaerobic chambers, glove boxes, or laminar flow hoods):.....Yes/No

v. Aerosol inhalation chambers having a capacity of 1 cubic meter or greater designed for aerosol challenge testing with microorganisms or toxins:.....Yes/No

vi. Protective suits and hoods with attachments for tethered air and operating under positive pressure:.....Yes/No

(g) List the types and parameters of equipment available to the research unit for breeding vectors:

(h) The organisational structure of the research unit.

i. Total number of personnel:

ii. Division of personnel:

Military:.....

Civilian:.....

Locally recruited staff: .....

iii. Division of personnel by category:

Scientists: .....

Engineers:.....

Technicians: .....

Administrative and support staff: .....

iv. List the scientific disciplines represented in the scientific/engineering staff:

v. What are the funding levels for the following programme areas:

Research:.....

Development: .....

Testing and evaluation: .....

vi. Briefly describe the publication policy pertaining to the activities of the research unit.

vii. Provide a list of publicly available papers and reports resulting from the work published during the previous 12 months (to include authors, titles and full references).

(i) Briefly describe the work conducted by the research unit in the field of biological defence or in the field of infectious disease prevention and control including type(s) of biological agents/or toxins studied, as well as outdoor studies of biological aerosols:

(j) Provide information on testing of biological and pharmaceutical preparations on volunteers conducted by the research unit:

i. Is there a testing on the local population of the following:

Means of prophylaxis ..... Yes/No

Therapeutics..... Yes/No

(k) Does the research unit produce:

Vaccines..... Yes/No

Human pathogens ..... Yes/No

Animal pathogens ..... Yes/No

Plant pathogens..... Yes/No

(l) Does the research unit collect in the State of its deployment endemic causatives agents of dangerous infectious diseases or toxins Yes/No

(m) Provide information on the participation of the personnel of the research unit in investigating and controlling outbreaks of infectious disease. List the names of isolated cultures of microorganisms and places of their deposit:

(n) Does the research unit conduct aerosol studies with pathogens or simulants:

Indoors..... Yes/No

Outdoors ..... Yes/No

(o) Is there a treatment of waste resulting from the research unit's activities:

At the hosting facility, place or site .....Yes/No

Outside of the hosting facility, place or site .....Yes/No

(p) Does the research unit employ locally recruited staff .....Yes/No

(q) Does the research unit:

i. Transfer biological material containing agents and toxins from the State of their origin to other States.....Yes/No

ii. Receive clearance from the originating State in subparagraph i) regarding the mode and amounts of such transfer .....Yes/No

(r) List agencies and establishments of the reporting State receiving the results of work conducted by the research unit:

(s) Provide information on how activities of the research unit are monitored by local agencies including medical, sanitary, anti-epidemic and environmental establishments:

(t) Does the State hosting the research unit receive annual information on such unit's activities and the results of its work .....Yes/No

Annex II

Addition to Form G: Declaration of vaccine production facilities

Add part II as follows:

State Party will declare all facilities, both governmental and non-governmental, within its territory or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, producing vaccines licensed by the State party for the protection of animals.

Declaration of vaccine production facilities for the protection of animals:

(a) Name of facility.

(b) Location (mailing address).

(c) General description of the types of diseases covered.