

**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**

26 November 2021

English only

2020 Meeting

Geneva, 22-25 November 2021

Item 11 of the agenda

Adoption of the report of the meeting

Proposals to the BWC MSP 2020 Draft Final Report¹

Submitted by the Russian Federation

**VI. Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of
Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible
outcomes**

**A. Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening
cooperation and assistance under Article X**

1. The MSP welcomed the substantive exchange of views on international cooperation and assistance at the Meeting of Experts, and noted that further efforts are required to implement Article X, taking into consideration its potential contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. The MSP concluded that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X is essential for the realization of the objectives and purposes of the Convention and to promote the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes. The MSP encouraged States Parties to use the database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties. The MSP emphasized importance of overcoming sustained challenges and obstacles to international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological science and technology. The MSP called for further efforts to consider challenges, obstacles and specific measures to ensure that national implementation of the Convention is taken in full conformity with the obligation under Article X. The MSP recognized the importance of avoiding imposing restrictions and/or limitations on transfers for peaceful purposes of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials under Article X.

2. The MSP encouraged continued consideration and exploration of proposals made during the Meeting of Experts, including proposals to elaborate an Action Plan for full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X, to establish the post of a Cooperation Officer within the ISU, to improve the coordination and effectiveness of cooperation. The MSP called for further efforts to enable developing States Parties to participate in the cooperation and assistance, including through the conduct of needs and gap assessments, the use of national plans, training manuals for crafting tailored biorisk and biosafety management systems and for

¹ Any entry listed in this document does not imply the expression of any opinion regarding, and is without prejudice to, the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities.



maintaining laboratories of high consequence pathogens in resource-limited settings and the enhanced operationalization and visibility of the database.

B. Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention

3. The MSP welcomed the efforts of the Meeting of Experts to address developments in the field of science and technology in a balanced manner, considering both the potential benefits of advances and challenges they may pose to the effective implementation of the Convention. States Parties agreed on the value of further discussion in this area, to include careful attention to approaches to more effectively assess and manage risks while promoting beneficial applications and the fullest possible exchange of knowledge, materials, and equipment for peaceful purposes.

4. The MSP called for continued consideration of proposals made by States Parties for monitoring and assessing developments in scientific and technological fields relevant to the Convention, increasing participation of scientific community and encouraging responsible scientific conduct.

C. Strengthening National Implementation

5. The MSP welcomed the substantive discussions of the Meeting of Experts, and affirmed that it is useful for States Parties to learn from each other by sharing national experiences in the implementation of the Convention and to explore as appropriate ways and means to enhance national implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including through regional and sub-regional cooperation. The MSP called upon States Parties to increase CBMs submissions.

6. The MSP encouraged the MX to intensify its work with a view to the development of concrete outcomes that would contribute to common understanding and effective action in this area. The MSP called for continued consideration and exploration of proposals made during the Meeting of Experts to update confidence-building measures forms.

D. Assistance, Response and Preparedness

7. While noting a wide range of positions on aspects of Article VII that require further consideration, the MSP affirmed the value of specific proposals that might improve the currently limited state of readiness for an Article VII response. In this context, the MSP called for further consideration of proposed formats and guidelines for requests for assistance. Recalling that the 8th RevCon had expressed support for the concept of an Article VII assistance database, the MSP also encouraged interested States Parties to work to further develop ideas for the function and structure of such a database with a view to its operationalization.

8. States Parties further agreed on the value of further consideration of the proposal on mobile biomedical units under the Convention and to elaborate an Article VII Coordination mechanism.

E. Institutional Strengthening of the Convention

9. The MSP welcomed the substantive discussions of the Meeting of Experts and confirmed that the States Parties share the goal of the institutional strengthening of the Convention. A range of options, both legally-binding and politically-binding, were discussed during the Meeting of Experts.

10. The MSP called for continued consideration and exploration of these options, including possible verification and investigation measures.