

Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

2 August 2023

English only

Second Session

Geneva, 7-18 August 2023

Agenda item 6

Identifying, examining and developing specific and effective measures, including possible legally-binding measures, and making recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention in all its aspects within the mandate of the Working Group

Related activities and programmes conducted by relevant International Organizations and entities corresponding to possible measures to be discussed by the Working Group

Submitted by Japan

I. Introduction: purpose of this paper

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide examples of related activities undertaken by other relevant international organisations so that States Parties can carry out fruitful discussions at the Working Group that could contribute to promoting effective coordination and synergies between the BWC and other relevant international organisations that are conducting their respective measures similar to or closely related to those which the Working Group will address in accordance with paragraph 8, section II B of the Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference (BWC/CONF.IX/9).

II. Composition of the annexed paper

2. For the aforementioned purpose, a table is annexed listing activities undertaken by other relevant international organisations in relation to potential measures to be considered under some of the topics to be addressed by the Working Group, in accordance with its mandate. The potential measures referred to in the table are those proposed by the President of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC within BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 of the Ninth Review Conference (see section III, paragraph 19-34) (hereinafter: Rev.1 document), as potentially agreeable measures. These concrete proposals presented by the Rev.1 document were, in our view, regarded by many States Parties as forming a good basis for discussion at the Working Group.

3. Those potential measures are listed in the annexed table for each topic in conjunction with the structure and organization of the Rev.1 document. The topics listed are, as follows; (a) Measures on international cooperation and assistance under Article X, (b) Measures on scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, (e) Measures on national implementation of the Convention, and (f) Measures on assistance, response and preparedness under Article VII. Topic (c) Measures on confidence-building and transparency and Topic (d) Measures on compliance and verification are not included in this annexed table



as they are measures unique to the BWC. Topic (g) Measures on organizational, institutional and financial arrangements is also not included as Rev.1 document does not refer to potential measures under this corresponding title. (Note: the alphabetical symbols attached to the topics correspond to the symbols of the topics within the Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference (see BWC/CONF.IX/9, section II, paragraph 8)).

4. The activities and programmes of other relevant international organizations listed in the table are based on public information of international organizations and information from relevant experts.

III. Points of notice

5. The Government of Japan hopes that the States Parties can carry out fruitful discussions on measures to strengthen the BWC in the Working Group while recognizing the commensurate activities of other relevant international organizations by referring to the annexed table.

6. The list of activities and programmes of other relevant international organizations is neither exhaustive nor comprehensive, and it will be subject to improvement and updates. Japan welcome any comments from States Parties and the relevant international organizations to improve this document.

Annex

Related activities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities

Topic	<i>Possible measures referred to in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III</i>	<i>Related activities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities</i>
International Cooperation and assistance under Article X	P19 - The Conference decides to develop a mechanism to ensure full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X. In order for such mechanism to be established, the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention will consider and make recommendations on its mandate, composition, modalities and financial implications, in accordance with Section B of	UNSC ¹ Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) “affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security”. To this end, the Resolution “imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking”, as well as encouraging international cooperation and assistance. The 1540 Committee sees to the implementation of the Resolution, and produces a report on its examination. As of November 2022, the mandate of the Committee has been extended until November 2032 (Resolution 2663[2022]). https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/about-1540-committee/general-information.shtml

¹ UNSC, United Nations Security Council

² WHO, World Health Organization

Topic	Possible measures referred to in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III	Related activities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities
Scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention	cooperation and assistance established by the Seventh Review Conference, to be further enhanced in accordance with the decision of the Eighth Review Conference; an online platform to promote exchange of information and best practices related to biosafety and biosecurity frameworks, towards enhancing cooperation under Article X; a database to facilitate assistance under the framework of Article VII, as presented in Section G of this document.	<p>G7</p> <p>Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP)</p> <p>An international initiative aimed at preventing the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons, and related materials. Notable streams of work include a dedicated Biosecurity Sub-Working Group (BSWG) and its Signature Initiative to Mitigate Deliberate Biological Threats in Africa undertaken in collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). https://www.gpwmd.com/</p>
	<p>P20 - The Conference decides to develop a mechanism to ensure the review of scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention. In order for such mechanism to be established, the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention will consider and make recommendations on its mandate, composition, modalities and financial implications, in accordance with Section B of this document and taking into consideration elements contained in Annex. The mechanism will consist of the following elements:</p> <p>P20a - An open-ended Scientific Advisory Group, open to all States Parties.</p>	<p>WHO</p> <p>Expert Committees across the organization, most of whom meeting when necessary, with some regularly meeting Committees such as the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS). https://www.who.int/groups/expert-committee-on-biological-standardization</p> <p>Various Advisory Committees within the Science Division</p> <p>Identifying and assessing emerging issues for early identification of potential benefits and threats and making corresponding recommendations for decision makers. Science Division teams setting global research agendas to address emerging areas and address gaps, through recommending research priorities and facilitating World Health Assembly resolutions on particular topics. https://www.who.int/our-work/science-division/</p> <p>Science Council within the Science Division comprising leading experts to evaluate urgent high-priority issues and provide guidance to the Director-General. https://www.who.int/groups/science-council</p> <p>Global Health Foresight</p> <p>The function within the Science Division providing ongoing monitoring of emerging technologies that pose both benefits and potential risks to guide Member States develop futures-thinking into their strategic health frameworks. Notable publication of relevance to the BWC: 'Emerging trends and technologies: a horizon scan for global public health'. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/352385</p>

Topic	Possible measures referred to in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III	Related activities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities
P20b - A limited-size Scientific Reporting Committee, whose members will be nominated from the open-ended Scientific Advisory Group.	WOAH ³	Advisory Editorial Board comprising the Presidents of the Regional Commissions and the Council (equivalent to the Executive Board). It proposes topics for thematic issues of the Scientific and Technical Review, which are published twice a year, and advises the Editor-in-Chief on continuous improvement of the publication's quality and reputation, including methods of peer review. https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/publications/scientific-and-technical-review/#ui-id-2
P20c - The Scientific Advisory Group or the Scientific Reporting Committee may establish temporary working groups with narrowly defined mandates, to be set up on ad hoc basis, should specific technical expertise be necessary.		Scientific and Technical Committee comprising the Presidents of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups as well as an independent expert. It works under the supervision of the Deputy Director General to suggest topics for thematic issues of the Scientific and Technical Review and proposes the names of potential editors for consideration by the Advisory Editorial Board. https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/publications/scientific-and-technical-review/#ui-id-3
P20d - An additional position within the Implementation Support Unit, to be responsible for the relevant tasks listed above.	OPCW ⁴	Guidelines for investigating and responding to suspicious biological incidents such as: 'Guidelines for Investigation of Suspicious Biological Events: Guidelines for National Veterinary Services' (March 2018) https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2021/03/guidelines-investigation-suspicious-biological-events.pdf Scientific Advisory Board Operating under the authority of the OPCW Director-General and comprising 25 independent technical experts. The Board reviews CWC-relevant S&T developments and provides reports with recommendations for States Parties, which the Director-General officially responds to with encouragements for States Parties to implement key voluntary recommendations at the national level. The Board is also able to establish Temporary Working Groups for specific topics. The Board also implements initiatives such as Science for Diplomats to build awareness of S&T for policy-level representatives. https://www.opcw.org/about/subsidiary-bodies/scientific-advisory-board

³ WOAH, World Organization for Animal Health

⁴ OPCW, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Possible measures referred to in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III</i>	<i>Related activities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities</i>
	<p>P21 - The Conference acknowledges the value of national implementation measures and recommends States Parties to consider developing and implementing pathogen repository and inventory systems, including by identifying and documenting information in dedicated electronic databases on entities that store or maintain dangerous pathogens.</p> <p>P22 - The Conference recommends States Parties to consider making use, as appropriate, of model legislation developed by States Parties, international, regional and sub-regional organisations as well as non-governmental stakeholders as a reference for relevant national implementation measures under the Convention.</p> <p>P23 - The Conference encourages all stakeholders to voluntarily incorporate elements from the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists in their practices, protocols, and regulations, and to disseminate the Guidelines. The Conference invites States Parties to exchange information, experiences and good practices during the intersessional programme for 2023-2026 and inform the Tenth Review Conference.</p> <p>P24 - The Conference recommends that States Parties promote the development of capacity building for, and sharing of best practices in life sciences research, including oversight of infectious disease research, to improve biosafety</p>	<p>WHO</p> <p>The Science Division's various work streams to support Member States with domestic implementation of WHO guidelines on biosecurity and biosafety. https://www.who.int/our-work/science-division/quality-assurance-norms-and-standards</p> <p>Joint External Evaluation (JEE)</p> <p>Voluntary, collaborative, multisectoral process to assess countries' capacities to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to public health risks regardless of the potential origin, in order to prioritize opportunities for enhanced preparedness and response. https://www.who.int/emergencies/operations/international-health-regulations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations</p> <p>Expert Committees across the organization, most of whom meeting when necessary, with some regularly meeting Committees such as the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS). https://www.who.int/groups/expert-committee-on-biological-standardization</p> <p>The Science Division also works to produce voluntary guidance manuals such as the 'Laboratory biosafety manual' (4th edition 2020). https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240011311</p> <p>Health Ethics and Governance Unit within the Science Division producing guidance and tools for Member States on ethics in research and public health. https://www.who.int/our-work/science-division/research-for-health</p> <p>Global guidance framework for the responsible use of the life sciences within the Science Division. Notable publication from September 2022 providing values, principles and tools to Member States and key stakeholders on conducting responsible research: 'Mitigating biorisks and governing dual-use research'. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240056107</p> <p>Global guidance framework for the responsible use of the life sciences within the Science Division. Notable publication from September 2022 providing values, principles and tools to Member States and key stakeholders on conducting responsible research: 'Mitigating biorisks and governing dual-use research'. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240056107</p> <p>WOAH</p> <p>WOAH International Standards including various codes and specific practices related to the health of animals and public veterinary health. https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/</p>

Topic	<i>Possible measures referred to in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III</i>	<i>Related activities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities</i>
Assistance, response and preparedness under Article VII	<p>and biosecurity globally and to work cooperatively with the life sciences community, industry, and relevant international organizations to develop, raise awareness of, and apply international standards, guidelines, best practices, and other measures for laboratory biorisk management.</p> <p>P25 - The Conference acknowledges the value of voluntary biorisk management standards in the national implementation of the Convention and calls on all stakeholders to work cooperatively to develop and apply biorisk management standards by drawing upon appropriate international, regional, national and industrial standards.</p> <p>P30 - The Conference decides to establish a set of voluntary guidelines, as contained in Annex [...], to aid individual States Parties in the application for, and implementation of, assistance in the event that a State Party has been exposed to danger as a result of violation of the Convention. The Conference notes that establishing such guidelines could facilitate</p>	<p>Multilateral Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI): an informal network formed in 2001 to ensure health-sector exchange and coordination of practices in confronting risks to global health posed by chemical, biological, and radio-nuclear threats, as well as by pandemic influenza, with the WHO as a technical advisor.</p> <p>http://ghsi.ca/</p> <p>ISO⁵ Existing international standards on biosafety and biosecurity, such as the ISO 35001 (published 2019), a standard defining a process to identify, assess, control, and monitor the risks associated with hazardous biological materials. https://www.iso.org/standard/71293.html</p> <p>UN/ WHO United Nations Biorisk Working Group (UN-BRWG)</p> <p>Established under decision 2020/59 of the Secretary General of the United Nations on 20 August 2020. The Working Group aims to foster coherence and coordination to respond to natural, accidental and deliberate biological events within the UN... Its purpose is not to create a new mechanism/organization but to bring together policy/normative and technical expertise to harmonize and further develop a clear understanding of capacities, mechanisms, and roles and responsibilities within the UN system in order to strengthen the international community's response to biorisks and improve on the prevention of and preparedness for the deliberate use of biological pathogens. https://f3magazine.unicri.it/?p=2208</p>

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ISO, International Organization for standardization

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	simulation and table-top exercises to test the deployment of resources and extension of assistance during biological incidents and the formulation of procedures for handling assistance in accordance with Article VII.	<p>Inter-UN agency One Health Joint Plan of Action ((2026–2022</p> <p>Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment (FAO, UN Environment Program, WHO and WOA) to integrate systems and capacity so that public health threats can be better responded to collectively, regardless of location or origin. The first plan (2022-2026) focuses on: health systems resilience, (re-)emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases, food safety, antimicrobial resistance, environment. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240059139</p> <p>UNOCT Preventing and responding to biological attacks is incorporated in the UN Counter Terrorism Centre (UNOCT) Programme on Preventing and Responding to WMD(Weapons of Mass Destruction)/CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear terrorism) Terrorism, which seeks to advance UN Member States’ understanding of the level of WMD/CBRN Terrorism threat and supports their prevention, preparedness and response efforts. UNOCT is structured under UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).</p> <p>https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear-terrorism</p> <p>https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/210624_20_cbrn_courses_brochure.pdf</p> <p>WOAH Biological Threat Reduction Strategy including a network of experts and teams ready to respond to a biological incident regardless of the origin. https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/global-initiatives/biological-threat-reduction/</p> <p>INTERPOL⁶ INTERPOL Bioterrorism Prevention Unit enabling law enforcement agencies to prevent, prepare and respond to the deliberate use of bacteria, viruses or biological toxins that threaten or cause harm to humans, animals or agriculture. https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Terrorism/Bioterrorism</p> <p>EU⁷ Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Centers of Excellence</p> <p>Established in 2010 by the EU as mechanisms to provide technical assistance in the areas of preventing, preparing for and responding to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks in a tailored manner across states covered by eight Regional Secretariat. This programme includes Preparatory Meetings where each of the Secretariats come together to share experiences and guide future work, most recently in the ‘2022 Interregional Roadmap’. https://cbrn-risk-mitigation.network.europa.eu/eu-cbrn-centres-excellence_en</p> <p>Multilateral Global Health Security Index</p> <p>Open-source index measuring countries’ capacities to prepare for epidemics and pandemics publishing annual reports with detailed analyses.</p> <p>https://www.ghsindex.org/</p>

⁶ INTERPOL, International Criminal Police Organization

⁷ EU, European Union