

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

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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

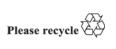
Submitted by Japan

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

Possible measures referred to in Topic BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III Related activities or programmes conducte		Related act	ivities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities
	al P19 - The Conference decides to develop a	UNSC1	Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) "affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and
Cooperation	mechanism to ensure full implementation of		biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to international peace and security". To this end, the Resolution
and assistance	ce international cooperation and assistance under		"imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons,
under	Article X. In order for such mechanism to be		and their means of delivery, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking", as well
Article X	established, the Working Group on the		as encouraging international cooperation and assistance. The 1540 Committee sees to the implementation of the Resolution, and produces
	strengthening of the Convention will consider		a report on its examination. As of November 2022, the mandate of the Committee has been extended until November 2032 (Resolution
	and make recommendations on its mandate,		2663[2022]).
	composition, modalities and financial		1,, // // // // // // // // // 1160
	implications, in accordance with Section B of		https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/about-1540-committee/general-information.shtml

¹ UNSC, United Nations Security Council

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

this document. The mechanism will consist of the WHO² following elements:

P19a - A Cooperation Advisory Group aimed at facilitating international cooperation activities developed within the framework of Article X of the Convention, including the matchmaking of offers and requests in the database system and identifying and fostering complementarities between international

cooperation activities between and among the Convention and relevant International Organization.

P19c - A Voluntary Trust Fund for the full implementation of Article X, funded by voluntary contributions by States Parties and other actors in a position to provide them. The fund shall support projects relevant to Article X provisions.

P19d - The international assistance database system comprising of the following platforms accessible through the Convention's website, administered and maintained by the Implementation Support Unit: the database on

The Department of Country Strategy and Support (CSS) within the Office of the WHO Director-General works with various teams across the organization and national authorities to oversee and strategically plan the WHO's assistance to implement policies and activities crucial to public health. The department also seeks to identify areas to make work more efficient, in light of existing and new work being conducted by various stakeholders. https://www.who.int/countries/country-strategy-and-support

The Country Support Units of WHO Regional Offices manages a large amount of the technical cooperation and assistance for countries. https://www.who.int/westernpacific/about/country-support

Ad-hoc initiatives can be launched and headed by the WHO in partnership with key stakeholders, such as the ACT-Accelerator for Covid-19, the fastestfasted and most coordinated global effort in history to develop tools to fight a disease. https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator

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

Joint External Evaluation (JEE)

V: 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

G20 The Pandemic Fund

Launched at the G20 Conference 2022, hosted by the World Bank, with WHO as a technical lead and a Governing Board comprising 21 voting members across both donor and receiving states. https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/financial-intermediary-fund-for-pandemic-prevention-preparedness-and-response-ppr-fif/governance-structure

² WHO, World Health Organization

Topic	Possible measures referred to in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III	Related activi	ities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities
	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.	G7	Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP) 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/
technological developments relevant to the	R P20 - The Conference decides to develop a mechanism to ensure the review of scientific and a technological developments relevant to the eConvention. 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: P20a - An open-ended Scientific Advisory Group, open to all States Parties.	WHO	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 Various Advisory Committees within the Science Division 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/ 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 Global Health Foresight 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

P20b - A limited-size Scientific Reporting
Committee, whose members will be nominated
from the open-ended Scientific Advisory Group.

Possible measures referred to in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2/Rev.1 III

6

Topic

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.

P20d - An additional position within the Implementation Support Unit, to be responsible for the relevant tasks listed above. Related activities or programmes conducted by other relevant international organizations and entities

 $WOAH^3$

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

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

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

OPCW⁴ 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

P21 - The Conference acknowledges the value of WHO 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.

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.

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.

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

WOAH

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

Joint External Evaluation (JEE)

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

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-biologicalstandardization

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

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

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

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https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240056107

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/

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	
	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. 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.	Multilateral ISO ⁵	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. http://ghsi.ca/ 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
_	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	UN/ WHO	United Nations Biorisk Working Group (UN-BRWG) 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

⁵ ISO, International Organization for standardization

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		
	prompt response and the provision of timely	WHO	Health Emergencies Programme	
	humanitarian and other necessary emergency assistance by States Parties, if requested. The guidelines will be maintained at the		Responsible for assistance, response and preparedness work in countries, with portfolios launched for specific public health emergencies such as the Covid-19 pandemic.	
	Implementation Support Unit.		https://www.who.int/emergencies/overview	
	P31 - The Conference decides to establish a		Relevant works streams include:	
	database open to all States Parties to facilitate assistance under the framework of Article VII. This database will register assistance resources and capabilities and help match specific offers		Public Health Emergency Operations Centre Network (EOC-NET) promoting best practices and standards for emergency operation centers and building Member States' capacity to rapidly respond and detect to public health emergencies as mandated by the International Health Regulations.	
	and requests for assistance. The Conference		https://www.who.int/emergencies/operations	
	invites States Parties, individually or together with other States or International Organisations,		Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Ethics Network (PHEPREN)	
	to submit information on expertise, protection		https://www.who.int/groups/public-health-emergency-preparedness-and-response-ethics-network	
	and detection, decontamination, prophylactic and containment measures, as well as medical or		Emergency Response Framework (ERF)	
	other equipment and relevant training.		Established in to respond to all sorts of public health emergencies, regardless of the cause (in with the International Health Regulations	
	P32 - The Conference takes note of the proposal		(2005)). To date, the ERF has not been activated to respond to any deliberate outbreak.	
	to create and employ multi-purpose mobile		https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241512299	
	biomedical rapid reaction units that could be relevant to aiding and delivery of protection		Joint External Evaluation (JEE)	
	against biological weapons pursuant to Article VII.		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.	
	P33 - The Conference, with the view to		https://www.who.int/emergencies/operations/international-health-regulations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluations-monitoring-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-external-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/joint-evaluation-framework/frame	
	concretely addressing the threat of hostile use of biological agents and toxins against agriculture,		Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)	
	livestock and biodiversity, takes note of the proposal to establish a "One Health Surveillance Network", with the mandate of fostering direct cooperation among governmental institutions for		A Registry of experts in various relevant fields that can be selected and dispatched to a location at the request of individual countries, regardless of the possible origin of the biological incident. Includes registry of biosecurity experts in relation to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540. There is also an official MoU between the WHO and the UNSGM. https://goarn.who.int/	
	the surveillance, prevention, preparedness,	Multilateral	Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA).	
	response and assistance in this matter.	WHO	A multilateral initiative launched in 2014 by 20 countries to accelerate compliance with the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR).	

The IHRs, a legally binding instrument now adopted by 196 countries, aims to strengthen country-level capabilities needed to prevent,

detect, and respond to health emergencies. https://globalhealthsecurityagenda.org/

P34 - The Conference encourages States Parties

to consider the feasibility of conducting

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	
	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.	Inter-UN	One Health Joint Plan of Action ((2026–2022
		agency	Working together for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment (FAO, UN Environment Program, WHO and WOAH) 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
		UNOCT	Preventing and responding to biological attacks is incorporated in the UN Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)'s 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. UNCCT is structured under UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).
			https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear-terrorism/cct/chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear-terrorism/cct/chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear-terrorism/cct/chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear-terrorism/cct/chemical-biological-
			$https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/210624_20_cbrn_courses_brochure.pdf$
		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/
		INTERPOL ⁶	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
		EU <u>⁷</u>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Centers of Excellence
			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
		Multilateral	Global Health Security Index
			Open-source index measuring countries' capacities to prepare for epidemics and pandemics publishing annual reports with detailed analyses.
			https://www.ghsindex.org/

INTERPOL, International Criminal Police Organization
 EU, European Union