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# 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

16 August 2021

English and French only

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## 2020 Meeting

Geneva, 22-25 November 2021

## Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X

Geneva, 30-31 August 2021

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Promotion of capacity building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity and for detecting, reporting and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation**

# Proposal for establishment of an international platform dedicated to biosecurity and biosafety: SecBio

Submitted by France

## I. Introduction

1. The current 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 on law and documentary library. It could take the form of a multidisciplinary digital area dedicated to biosafety and biosecurity: SecBio.

## II. What is SecBio?

4. SecBio is destined to be an online international Platform dedicated to biosafety and biosecurity. It is an interactive tool for development assistance in the field of biosafety and biosecurity for biological facilities and practitioners.



5. 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.
6. 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.
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.
8. The Platform will be available in French and English language.

### **III. How it could be implemented?**

9. It is proposed that the ISU administer a Platform open to all States Parties as a tool to facilitate provisions of Article X of the Convention.
10. This proposal would not require additional human resources within the ISU as it would mainly rely on the information provided by States Parties.
11. France develops a prototype version of what could be the Platform which should be available in the course of 2022 and offer an idea of what could be the tool and its main features.

### **IV. Future steps**

12. France welcomes feedback and inputs from States Parties on the development of the tool and its main features.
  13. States Parties may agree at the next Review Conference to adopt a dedicated Platform in biosafety and biosecurity under Article X on the BTWC website and administered by the ISU.
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