

Second session
Geneva, 10-21 July 1995

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation

The Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention requested the Ad Hoc Group, while drawing up a compliance regime for the Convention, to consider definitions of terms necessary for strengthening the Convention.

We believe that in developing a compliance regime attention should be paid to the following terms used in the text of the Convention:

- Bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons (title of the Convention);
- [Such] weapons of mass destruction as those using bacteriological (biological) agents (preamble);
- Bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins (preamble);
- Microbial or other biological agents, or toxins ... of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes (art. I);
- Weapons (art. I);
- Equipment (art. I);
- Means of delivery (art. I);
- Hostile purposes (art. I);
- Armed conflict (art. I);
- To destroy, or to divert to peaceful purposes, ... all agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery (art. II);
- Necessary measures to prohibit and prevent (art. IV);
- Breach of obligations deriving from the provisions of the Convention (art. VI);
- A complaint [including] all possible evidence (art. VI);
- Exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes (art. X);
- Peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities (art. X);
- Exchange of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins ... for peaceful purposes (art. X);
- Equipment for the processing, use or production of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins (art. X).

Besides the above terms there are other terms which have been and are being used in the course of the negotiating process, such as offensive or defensive biological programmes, potential for the development and production of biological weapons, biological warfare agents, biological weapon production facility, open-air tests of biological weapons and toxins, biological weapon stockpiles, defence facility, non-defence facility, controlled biological facility, etc.

We endorse the view that a common understanding of terms by the States parties, both at the stage of the development of a regime for strengthening the Convention and at the stage of control, will contribute to the effectiveness of all actions related to the Convention, and propose for consideration the following definitions of the principal terms.

Bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapon: a type of weapon designed for mass destruction of human beings, animals or plants, the effects of which are based on the properties of biological agents and toxins.

The term "Bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons" shall be applied to the following:

- Biological agents and toxins (except when they are designed for purposes not prohibited by the Convention, provided that the types of agents and toxins and their quantities are appropriate for those purposes);
- Weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed for the use of biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

Biological agents (microbiological and other biological agents, bacteriological (biological) means, bacteriological (biological) agents): microorganisms, their genetically modified forms and other biological agents designed to destroy human beings, animals or plants.

Toxins: toxic by-products of microorganisms, natural poisons of animal or plant origin, whatever their method of production, designed to destroy human beings, animals or plants.

Hostile purposes: the use of bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons or biological agents by a State (States) to destroy human beings, animals or plants in a State (States) which is (are) not engaged in a military conflict with the former State (States) with a view to inflicting military, economic or moral damage.

Purposes not prohibited by the Convention: prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes.

