

**AD HOC GROUP 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**

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Proposal concerning the establishment of an international
epidemiological monitoring network

Preliminary remarks

This proposal shall be without prejudice to the decisions to be made regarding the establishment of an organization for the implementation of the future protocol.

The epidemiological monitoring network which is contemplated in this proposal has a specific role to play in the implementation of the future protocol. This role is complementary to the activities of other international organizations and is not intended to duplicate them.

Aims

1. An international epidemiological monitoring network shall be established as an instrument forming an integral part of the organization in charge of implementing the verification protocol to the 1972 Convention.
2. The role of the international epidemiological monitoring network shall be to collect all relevant information relating to the appearance of unusual pathologies or epidemics. It shall be one of the instruments used in conjunction with the procedures for determining possible violations of the Convention.

3. The international epidemiological monitoring network shall, at the request of the Organization or any State party, supply any relevant information drawn up on the basis of collected and processed data.

4. The use of this information shall be without prejudice to decisions ultimately taken with regard to possible action in response to an event, decisions which lie within the competence of the States parties.

Instruments

5. On the basis of information supplied by States parties, the international epidemiological monitoring network shall establish validated epidemiological databases for various geographical zones.

6. The international epidemiological monitoring network shall operate on the basis of an electronic network for the notification of epidemiological data concerning outbreaks of diseases in human beings, animals and plants.

7. The international epidemiological monitoring network shall receive, collect, process, analyse and store data supplied by States parties and available relevant information collected by existing international organizations.

8. The international epidemiological monitoring network shall cooperate to that effect, inter alia, with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Office of Epizootics (IOE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant international organizations.

9. Drawing on appropriate expertise, the international epidemiological monitoring network shall process the data supplied to it in order to determine elements which make it possible to distinguish pathologies and epidemics deemed to be natural phenomena from pathologies and epidemics resulting from artificial phenomena potentially related to a violation or attempted violation of the 1972 Convention.

Undertaking on the part of States

10. Each State party will undertake to supply data on pathologies or epidemics which have appeared in its territory or in areas under its jurisdiction or control and which are caused by listed pathogenic agents or

toxins for man, animals or plants, as well as any additional relevant data. National authorities shall supply this data to the international epidemiological monitoring network in accordance with agreed procedures.

Assistance

11. The reports and studies resulting from the activities of the network may, if appropriate and with the agreement of the States parties, contribute to the implementation of preventive measures taken against epidemics by States parties and to the improvement of national systems of epidemiological surveillance.
