

**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**

BWC/AD HOC GROUP/WP.135
11 March 1997

ENGLISH
Original: CHINESE

Sixth session
Geneva, 3_21 March 1997

SPECIFIC MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN IMPLEMENTATION
OF ARTICLE X OF THE BTWC

Working paper submitted by China

Recent scientific and technological developments in the field of biotechnology, bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful applications have vastly increased the necessity and potential for exchange and cooperation between States parties. More effective implementation of such exchange and cooperation will promote economic and social development and scientific and technological progress in all States parties, so as to make biotechnology benefit all mankind.

The legal instrument being formulated by the Ad Hoc Working Group is aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the BTWC in a comprehensive manner, including enhancing implementation of article X. Article X states that "the States Parties to this Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes". All States parties therefore have a legal obligation to undertake and promote international cooperation and exchange in peaceful applications of biotechnology. In order to facilitate the implementation of article X, the future legal instrument should make specific institutional and financial arrangements for this purpose. In this connection, the future BTWC Organization should take, inter alia, the following specific measures:

1. Providing assistance to the States parties which are less developed in the field of biotechnology, at their request, to enhance their biological research capabilities and improve their biosafety standard;

2. Providing assistance to the States parties which are less developed in the field of biotechnology, at their request, to establish national centres for examination of biological agents and toxins, including training of relevant personnel, and exchange of examination and identification techniques;

3. Exploring and formulating, within the time_frame agreed upon by States parties, specific measures to facilitate exchange and cooperation between States parties in the research and production of vaccines and other biological products, and in equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful use of biological agents and toxins;

4. Establishing, within the time_frame agreed upon by States parties, a technical data bank on developments in the field of frontier science, such as biotechnology, genetic engineering and microbiology, so as to provide relevant technical information to States parties;

5. In order to strengthen States parties' biological defence capabilities, and immediately after the entry into force of the protocol, formulating guiding principles on bilateral or multilateral exchanges and cooperation in the following areas, and determining their possible scope or specific measures: (a) relevant pathogens, toxins and other biological materials, and related information; (b) biological warfare surveillance and warning technologies, detection, identification and decontamination of biological warfare agents, and prevention diagnosis and treatment of related diseases.
