

**AD HOC GROUP OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND**

BWC/AD HOC GROUP/43

(Part I)/Corr.1

**STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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PROCEDURAL REPORT OF THE 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

PART I

Corrigendum

In page 208, insert a new section V after section IV on [Investigations where there is a concern that a transfer has taken place in violation of Article III of the Convention] as follows:

[V. INVESTIGATIONS OF NATURAL AND UNUSUAL OUTBREAKS OF DISEASE

1. In pursuance of paragraph 5 *bis*, Article III, section F, subsection III of BWC/AD HOC GROUP/43 (Part I), an unusual outbreak of disease may be defined as an outbreak which is unexpected within the prevailing and known context for the host agent and environment parameters. For the purposes of this Protocol, an unusual outbreak of disease may have one or more of the following reasons:

- (a) That the disease is being reported for the first time in the region and was never known to be endemic;
- (b) That the epidemic has occurred outside its normal anticipated season;
- (c) That the reservoir host and/or insect vector of the disease do not occur in or were previously eradicated from the affected region;
- (d) That the disease appears to be transmitted by an uncommon or unusual route;

- (e) That the epidemiological features of the disease suggest increased virulence of the organism manifested in the form of increased case fatality rate;
 - (f) That the causative agent has higher survival time even in the adverse environmental conditions and shows unusual resistance;
 - (g) That the causative agent is capable of establishing new natural reservoirs to facilitate continuous transmission;
 - (h) That the disease occurred in a population with a high level of immunity due to vaccination suggesting that the causative agent has modified;
 - (i) That the disease is caused by an agent with an unusual population subset or in an unexpected age group;
 - (j) That the epidemiology of the disease suggests an abnormal reduction in the incubation period of the disease;
 - (k) That the epidemiology of the outbreak strongly points to environment of a biological agent, but isolation and identification of the suspected agent is not possible by established means;
 - (l) That the characteristics of the causative agent differ from the known characteristics of that agent prevalent in the territory of the State Party.
2. An outbreak of disease which appears to be unusual may be investigated by the affected State Party to accomplish the following:
- (a) Collection of relevant data regarding all aspects of the disease;
 - (b) Identification of the causative agent;
 - (c) Characterization of the causative agent by using molecular techniques such as PCR and DNA sequencing;
 - (d) Identification of the unusual features of the disease including documentation of the outbreak emphasizing on the atypical features;
 - (e) Assessment of the extent and severity of the outbreak; including the epidemic curve and monitoring of the trends.]
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