

**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**

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the provision of assistance and
coordination with relevant organizations upon
request by any State Party in the case of alleged
use of biological or toxin weapons, including
improving national capabilities for disease surveillance,
detection and diagnosis and public health systems**

**Organization of prevention and elimination of potential
outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases in the Russian
Federation**

Submitted by the Russian Federation

1. The Russian Federation has gathered certain experience in monitoring, prevention, detection, localization and elimination of dangerous infectious diseases outbreaks, first of all, with respect to its sanitary and epidemiological surveillance system.
2. The legal framework of Russia's policy in this area was established in The State Policy Guidelines for Chemical and Biological Security of the Russian Federation, approved by the President of the Russian Federation on December 4, 2003 (№ Pr-2194).
3. The Russian Government resolution № 303 of May 16, 2005, "The Terms of Reference of Federal Executive Authorities for Chemical and Biological Security of the Russian Federation" and resolution № 50 of Chief Public Health Physician of August 4, 2009, "Regulatory Powers of the Unified Federal Centralized System of State Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance for Chemical and Biological Security" established the procedure for biological and chemical security in the Russian Federation.
4. The Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation is the key implementing agency to ensure the biological safety and security. The Ministry's Federal Service for Protection of Customers' Rights and Human Well-Being Surveillance (Rospotrebnadzor) is in charge of sanitary and epidemiological surveillance.
5. Russia effectively maintains and enhances the system of timely alert notification on human infectious diseases outbreaks. The Rospotrebnadzor and its regional offices in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation together with its subordinate regional hygiene and epidemiology centers are used for identification, localization and elimination of infectious diseases in case of such outbreaks.

6. Special mobile units organize the relief operations to eliminate the medico-sanitary consequences and ensure sanitary and epidemiological safety, with their functions depending on the current sanitary and epidemiological situation. Special mobile units include:

(a) special anti-epidemic brigades formed on the basis of research anti-plague institutions as autonomous permanent readiness and emergency response units of the Federal Service for Customers' Rights Protection and Human Well-Being;

(b) sanitary and anti-epidemic units formed on the basis of federal hygiene and epidemiology centers in the regions of the Russian Federation;

(c) sanitary and epidemiological units established in the regional hygiene and epidemiology centers of the Russian Federation and specializing in epidemiology, radiology and toxicology;

(d) sanitary and epidemiological reconnaissance groups established in the relevant branches of regional hygiene and epidemiology centers of the Russian Federation.

7. In order to stabilise the sanitary and epidemiological situation in the areas of infectious disease outbreak these units:

(a) assess the sanitary-hygienic and sanitary-epidemiological situation;

(b) organize and conduct preventive activities;

(c) indicate and identify pathogenic biological agents in the environmental sites;

(d) conduct laboratory analysis of biological materials for any infectious agents and agents of unknown aetiology;

(e) suppress hotbeds of infectious diseases;

(f) provide advisory and practical assistance to local health authorities.

8. In order to enhance the monitoring of infectious and parasitic agents and practical implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the territory of the Russian Federation, the Rospotrebnadzor has issued Order №88 (March 17, 2008) "On Measures to Improve the Monitoring of Infectious and Parasitic Agents". It also approved the List of regional centres for the monitoring of infectious and parasitic agents of pathogenicity groups II-IV, the List of regional centres for monitoring the infectious agents of pathogenicity groups I-II assigned to regions of the Russian Federation, and the List of centres for indication and diagnosis of dangerous infectious agents created on the basis of anti-plague institutions.

9. Moreover, the lists of reference centres for infectious and parasitic agents monitoring that operate as national centres for verification of diagnostic activities and national centres for state collection were approved.

10. In the regions of the Russian Federation operating laboratories of the Rospotrebnadzor are equipped with the means for quick identification of dangerous bacterial or viral infections, using among other methods the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

11. The Russian experience in the organization of sanitary and epidemiological surveillance could be recommended to the interested BTWC States Parties to prevent and minimize the consequences of natural outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases as well as the threat of alleged use of biological weapons against them. We are ready to actively collaborate in this area with all BTWC States Parties.