

**FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE 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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Geneva, 19 November - 7 December 2001

**Working paper by Japan**

**General Comments**

The important task of this Conference is to agree on an action-oriented Final Document and send a correct and strong message to international community and potential proliferators of biological weapons. In this regard, in order to demonstrate our political determination clearly, major elements of action program which guide future direction of our work, should be highlighted in a summary paper.

**Agenda item 10: Review of the operation of the Convention**

**Article I**



1. Establishment of Scientific Advisory Panel





This idea is worth in-depth study and can be included in the final documents. Further clarification on its purpose, mandate, and composition will be needed.

2. Introduction of an educational programme on BW





This proposal is worth examining and can be included in the final documents.







**Article IV**





1. National criminal legislations





Japan supports the proposal. Consideration should be given to the fact that several conventions against terrorism already cover criminalization of activities prohibited by the BWC.







2. Strict regulations on access to particularly dangerous microorganisms





This proposal is timely and can be included in the final documents. Further discussion will be needed on the modality.

3. Report internationally any releases or adverse events that could affect other countries

This idea is worth examining and could be included in the final documents.

4. Exploring national oversight of high-risk experiments of genetic engineering





This proposal is worth examining and could be included in the final documents. However, if we focus on genetic engineering, it could cause misunderstanding among the public that genetic engineering itself is dreadful activity highly related with biological weapons, and could affect other international schemes (Convention on Biological Diversity, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION etc.) where genetic modifications have been discussed. Therefore, we propose to specify those activities in genetic engineering, which should be under national oversight e.g. "high-risk experiments which would enhance virulence of micro-organisms", instead of "high-risk experiments of genetic engineering."

#### **Article V**





1. Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)





Measures to promote participation in the CBMs and enhancing the scope of CBMs are recommendable. Periodical meetings to clarify the information submitted by the States Parties and even revise the CBMs modalities are necessary to make CBMs more user-friendly and effective.

#### **Article VII and Article X**

##### 1. Enhanced cooperation with the World Health Organization

Japan strongly supports the idea of strengthening of WHO's global disease surveillance and response capabilities. The following proposed language can be incorporated in the final declaration:

"The Conference determines to strengthen the existing global network for disease surveillance and to build up its capabilities to respond to disease outbreaks in a timely fashion particularly in assisting the states affected by disease outbreaks, utilizing relevant international organizations and agencies including World Health Organization with participation of relevant institutions of States Parties."

#### **Agenda item 11: Consideration of issues identified in the review of Article XII contained in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference, and possible follow-up action**

##### 1. Possible follow-up action

Japan supports the idea of setting up strong follow-up mechanism by convening intersessional meetings of States Parties to discuss measures to strengthen the BWC including new proposals put forward during this Conference.

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