

Working paper submitted by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica,
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(unofficial translation)

Scientific cooperation and technology transfer
Article X

The fullest possible use of all peaceful applications of biotechnology for economic and technological development constitutes a right of States Parties under the Convention on the Prohibition on the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention).

From this perspective, the relevance of the promotion of scientific cooperation and technology transfer in accordance with the terms and principles of the Biological Weapons Convention is to be underscored.

Scientific cooperation and technology transfer constitute important incentives for the universalization of the Convention on Biological Weapons and need to be intensified. Therefore States Parties are invited to consider the following recommendations to:

- Fully implement the agreements achieved by the previous Review Conferences, as well as by the Special Conference on the Biological Weapons Convention.
- Ensure scientific cooperation and technology transfer for peaceful purposes in areas such as public health, agriculture, farming and animal husbandry.
- Develop efficient coordination mechanisms between the specialized agencies of the UN System and international and regional organisations, in order to facilitate scientific cooperation and technology transfer.
- Report yearly on progress made in the area of scientific cooperation and technology transfer.
- Reiterate the request made to the UN Secretary-General to collect from and distribute among States Parties, on a yearly basis, information on the implementation of Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention, as well as of decisions adopted by the Review Conferences.
- Facilitate the adoption of measures meant to create networks between scientific communities and the academic sector regarding the peaceful use of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other areas related to the Biological Weapons Convention.

- Support the establishment of procedures to assist States Parties who request such assistance through Article VII of the Biological Weapons Convention.
- Revise the consultation and cooperation procedures related to Article V of the Biological Weapons Convention.
- Create a database with information on available international cooperation and technology transfer opportunities.