

**2009 Meeting  
Geneva, 7-11 December 2009**

**Meeting of Experts  
Geneva, 24-28 August 2009**

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of, with a view to enhancing international  
cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological  
sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting  
capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance,  
detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases**

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION-NATIONAL MEASURES**

Submitted by Iran (Islamic Republic of)

1. Provisions of disarmament and arms control legal instruments including the BWC strike a balance between rights and obligations of States Parties. Therefore regulatory and promotional aspects of above- mentioned instruments should be implemented and strengthened in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, lack of which damages credibility of disarmaments treaties and Conventions and provides a disservice to their universality.
2. Article X constitutes one of the pillars of the Biological Weapons Convention which stipulates “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. Parties to the Convention in a position to do so shall also cooperate in contributing individually or together with other States or international organizations to the further development and application of scientific discoveries in the field of bacteriology (biology) for prevention of disease, or for other peaceful purposes. This Convention shall be implemented in a manner designed to avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties to the Convention or international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities, including the international exchange of bacteriological (biological) and toxins and equipment for the processing, use or production of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.”

3. In light of rapid scientific and technological development in biology, the importance of strengthening international cooperation in this area in order to bridge the existing gap between countries in the fields of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology and other related areas is ever increasing.

4. The afore- mentioned gap between countries is a source of concern and requires all States Parties, particularly those possessing advanced biotechnology to adopt positive measures to promote technology transfer and international cooperation on an equal and non-discriminatory basis, in particular with developing countries.

5. Lack of proper implementation of Article X prevents the less developed and developing States Parties from fulfilling their peaceful biological plans inter alia to prepare for prevention, control, elimination and eradication of communicable diseases.

6. The imposition of restrictions on dual use application of know-how, materials and equipment necessary for promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of communicable diseases including production of some vaccines and other biological material is considered as a blatant discriminatory action in gross violation of Article X.

- Nevertheless the implementation of this fundamental Article by certain States Parties has regrettably been subjected to the politically motivated considerations in contravention of the provisions of the Convention.

7. A State Party to the Convention should have the right to seek to redress the situation and settlement of disputes through institutionalized measure if it is denied receiving equipment and materials for peaceful application of biology and bio- technology by another State Party. Therefore a mechanism should be devised to deal with the issue of settlement of disputes arising from transfer denials. In this regard a standing committee could be established under the Convention to consider the cases of transfer denials.

8. The members of the committee should be duly experienced and competent, composed of well qualified governmental individuals and appointed on the basis of balanced geographical distribution.

9. It goes without saying that the issue will be referred to this committee if consultation and clarification process fail to resolve the situation.

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