
**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**

19 August 2010

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Geneva, 6–10 December 2010

Meeting of Experts

Geneva, 23–27 August 2010

Item 5 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.**

**Technical determinants in management of biological risks:
lessons learned**

Submitted by Germany

1. The German approach of integrated management of biological risks and threats builds on common understanding and close cooperation of different constituencies, i.e. first responders police, fire brigades, disaster relief organizations, ambulance services, medical treatment facilities, etc. But integrated management may also create integrated complications due to different policies, procedures and hardware.
2. Streamlining policies of all constituencies involved in integrated management is a permanent challenge and requires not only joint training but also permanent assessment of incidents, both real life and exercises. While streamlining policies is more or less a paper work process, real life and exercises may unfold technical limitations of procedures and hardware as well as errors that may create severe problems in real incidents. The management and learning from errors and failures is a cornerstone of German preparedness planning. Sharing of error and failure insights from uncommon risk and threat situations should be an important part of interdisciplinary and international communication and exercise planning.
3. Events like the G8-Summit Meeting in 2007 in Germany at Heiligendamm, the Football World Championship 2006 as well as Lassa, Ebola and SARS patients coming from abroad – only to name a few events - create situations, which provide lessons learned for permanent improvement of common understanding of procedures and equipment.
4. Once established and approved methods and hardware need to undergo permanent processes of development and technical improvement for optimizing response capabilities and minimizing risks for personnel involved in real life scenarios. Examples for

improvement are the development and use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), procedures for doffing PPE and decontamination. Working in full protective gear does not only limit mobility, narrows the field of vision and hampers communication but creates also physical stress by increasing body temperature. Training of personnel in PPE is a prerequisite for enabling optimal reaction in real life incidents.
