

**SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS
RELEVANT TO THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Submitted by Portugal

1. We firmly believe that, to cope with the threats posed by the manipulation of pathogenics and nano and biotechnology by States and terrorist groups, Governments should strengthen their capabilities in the field of scientific research in order to promote human and environmental security throughout the World.

 2. In that sense, Portugal has improved its capabilities, by renewing the equipment and infra-structures of the National Health Institute Laboratory, in order to increase the effectiveness in the control of biological threats. Presently, Portugal has the capability to proceed with molecular detections of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Burkholderia mallei*, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, as well as of the smallpox virus, in strict cooperation with the Bernard Koch Institute of Hamburg.

 3. The National Health Institute is also, since 2002, a member of the experts board of the Health Security Committee Working Group – Laboratory Co-operation of the DGSANCO. Throughout 2006, Portuguese experts have participated in several international meetings in the field of biological weapons, such as the EU Wetlab on Anthrax, organized by the Health Protection Agency (Porton Down, UK) and the EQAE (Robert Koch Institut, Wernigerode, Germany).
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