Strengthening global mechanisms for responding to deliberate use of disease

Side event promoted by the delegation of Canada
Geneva, 6 August 2019

BWC Implementation Support Unit
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)
UNODA Project
Coordinated by the BWC-ISU with funds from Canada

BWC ARTICLE VII

SP can request assistance

if UNSC determines that SP has been exposed to danger (violation of the BWC)

SPs undertake to provide it

How?

BWC SPs: UN and other IOs could also play an important role in coordinating, mobilizing and delivering the required support and assistance ... (IOs such as the WHO, OIE, FAO, and IPPC)

How?

• No IO for BWC Implementation

• No UN Dept. or Office, nor IO in charge of overall coordination of response deliberate outbreak
Identification of roles, mandates of relevant International Organizations, response actions, cooperation mechanisms, challenges and suggested solutions

Common understanding of current response arrangements, capabilities and resources of participating international organizations

CONTRIBUTE TO A HARMONIZED RESPONSE
UN Disarmament Agenda (2018)

Disarmament to save humanity:
“Ensuring respect for norms against chemical and biological weapons”

**Action 11:**

The **Office for Disarmament Affairs** will work with all relevant United Nations entities to contribute to developing a framework that ensures a coordinated international response to the use of biological weapons.

Lead entity: **BWC-ISU**
Partners: **UNOCT, OCHA, WHO, FAO, OIE, IPPC, Interpol**

**Canada:** Champion of Action 11
International Bio-Emergency Management Framework for Deliberate Events (BEMF)

• **Status:** An **INFORMAL, NON-BINDING, NON-PRESCRIPTIVE DOCUMENT** developed **FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

• **Scope:** covers (suspected or confirmed) hostile **use** of pathogens against **humans, animals** and **plants**, by both **State** and **non-state actors**, and a possible **request for assistance** pursuant to BWC Article VII

• **NO NEW MECHANISM, NO IMPACT ON EXISTING MECHANISMS**

• **International organizations** operate **based and WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE MANDATES AND STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS**, and upon **REQUEST**

• **Model** (differences in mind): **Joint Radiation Emergency Plan of the International Organizations (“J-Plan”)**

• A **tool/forum for fostering dialogue and cooperation** among international organizations

• **Key information for States**
Concept of operations

✓ Describes the existing arrangements of participating organizations attempting to show them in an overall process

✓ Tree scenarios: Human, Animal/Zoonotic, Plant pathogens

✓ For each scenario:
  • Indication of IOs involved
  • For each response stage, narrative description of the process and cooperation mechanisms among IOs
  • Schematic table with roles of each IO
  • Schematic table with description of response actions in a sequence/process
  • Indication of challenges and recommendations

✓ Policy analysis of possible options in case of Art. VII requests
Main actors/Core mandates

Humans

Zoonotic

Animals

Plants

OIE

FAO

WHO

OCHA and OTHER HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

UNITED NATIONS (relevant departments)

UNSGM (UNODA)

INTERPOL

Non-State Actor Use

State Actor Use

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Humanitarian emergencies

Security/Investigations

Public Health

Food/Agriculture

Animal Health

Plant Health

Humanitarian emergencies

Security/Investigations

Public Health

Food/Agriculture

Animal Health

Plant Health
Cooperation agreements and other arrangements

Undertaking to:
- Cooperate
- Exchange information, documents, reports (safeguarding confidentiality)
- Personnel arrangements, joint missions

* The IPPC, is an FAO “Article XIV body”, i.e. one of the Conventions developed and accepted by FAO members and funded by FAO, but governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
Cooperation mechanisms
Current activities

• **Platform for continued dialogue and communication among agencies:**
  ✓ Restricted workspace made available by OCHA on the Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (vOSOCC) platform

• **Consideration of informal guiding principles for emergency communications among agencies:**
  ✓ Improve international coordination during a disease outbreak, by developing informal coordination principles for **alerting the partners**, and to **consider exchange of (certain) information and situational assessment**
  ✓ Promote each IOs’ comprehensive factual information on non-sensitive/non-confidential issues in support of their operations

  **No decision-making or formal procedures involved in the discussion or in the development of the guiding principles!**

  **NO SENSITIVE OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION EXCHANGED**

• **Planning of a Table-Top Exercise**

• **Continued work on the BEMF**
For more information ...

www.unog.ch/bwc

Or contact:

BWC Implementation Support Unit
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
Palais des Nations
Geneva
fax: +41 (0)22 917 0483
e-mail: bwc@unog.ch
@BWCISU
www.facebook.com/1972BWC