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# **Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction**

17 August 2023

English only

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## **Second Session**

**Geneva, 7-18 August 2023**

Agenda item 6

**Identifying, examining and developing specific and effective measures, including possible legally-binding measures, and making recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention in all its aspects within the mandate of the Working Group**

## **Compilation of Proposals Related to the Development of an Article X Mechanism**

### **Submitted by the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Ninth Review Conference decided to develop with a view to establishing a mechanism open to all States Parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X. In order for this mechanism to be established, the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention was mandated to make appropriate recommendations.<sup>1</sup>
2. This paper is presented by the Chairperson under his own responsibility and highlights proposals made by States Parties at the second session of the Working Group, which was held from 7 to 18 August 2023. It is a compilation of inputs found in eight Working Papers submitted by States Parties.
3. For ease of reference this paper clusters the proposals into the following four thematic elements:
  - A. Structure
    - i. Aims, Objectives and Functions
    - ii. Functioning
  - B. Programmatic Approach
  - C. Funding
  - D. Staffing
4. This compilation does not purport to be exhaustive nor does it imply agreement on any particular proposal. It has been prepared with a view to facilitating discussions on an international cooperation and assistance mechanism under Article X of the Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> BWC/CONF.IX/9, Part II, Section D, paragraph 18.

## A. Structure

### i. Aims, Objectives and Functions

Reference	Aims, Objectives and Functions
BWC/WG/2/WP.1 (ASEAN) Paragraphs 11, 12 and 13	<p>11. In this regard, ASEAN Member States support the development of a mechanism open to all States Parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance obligations under Article X of the Convention. Guided by the principled position of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States (NAM), ASEAN Member States support the proposal to establish a Cooperation Advisory Group, which shall function as a “steering committee,” integrated by rotating positions among the States Parties to the Convention. The mandate of this Cooperation Advisory Group could be reviewed by the Review Conference, whereas updates regarding its work could be addressed as an agenda point in the Meeting of States Parties.</p> <p>12. This proposed Cooperation Advisory Group should aim to facilitate international cooperation activities developed within the framework of Article X of the Convention, including the matchmaking of offers and requests in the database system and identifying and fostering complementarities between international cooperation activities between and among the Convention and relevant international organizations.</p> <p>13. The proposed Cooperation Advisory Group could be responsible for an overview function of all cooperation activities under the Convention’s framework and should facilitate access to equipment, materials and scientific and technological information required for research in biosafety and biosecurity activities, as well as to facilitate the process of opening new means of cooperation between and among States Parties, especially concerning the exchange of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and other use of biological agents, equipment and materials for peaceful purposes, in particular for the treatment of patients in developing countries.</p>
BWC/WG/2/WP.2 (UK) Paragraphs 4, 5, 13 and 14	<p>4. The expansive framing of these two obligations means that States Parties should take a broad view of what activities are relevant under Article X. Attempting to define what is covered and what is not would result in unnecessary limitations. There is also no suggestion in the text of the Convention that all cooperative work or exchanges must be channelled through a mechanism, or subjected to oversight or supervision by any sort of body.</p> <p>5. 5. The 9th Review Conference decided to develop with a view to establishing a mechanism open to all States Parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X. When making their appropriate recommendations, the Working Group should remain mindful of the broad range of activities by other parts of the international system that States Parties have consistently welcomed as contributing to the implementation of Article X, including efforts by the World Health Organisation, the Food and Agricultural Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and under the auspices of the International Plant Protection Convention.</p> <p>13. The Ninth Review Conference agreed to “develop with a view to establishing a mechanism open to all States Parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X”. Whilst discussions during the Review Conference made some progress towards elaborating what such a mechanism might look like, as referenced in BWC/CONF.IX/CRP.2, this remains an incomplete picture of measures that could strengthen the implementation of Article X.</p> <p>14. Rather than focusing on adopting an ‘action plan’, the United Kingdom believes that States Parties should examine practical measures on a realistic basis, consider carefully how these measures would work in real-world scenarios, and prioritise allocating resource to the Implementation Support Unit (overseen by States Parties) as a means of delivering impact. [...]</p>
BWC/WG/2/WP.3/ Rev.1 (Australia,	<p>2. International cooperation and assistance (ICA) is a key aspect of the Convention. The broad nature of Article X is illustrated by the fact that Review Conferences have repeatedly urged “the use of the existing institutional means within the United Nations system</p>

Reference	Aims, Objectives and Functions
Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Romania, United Kingdom, and United States) Paragraph 2	<p>and other international organisations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to promote the objectives of this Article” (BWC/CONF.VIII/4, II (68)), and affirmed that these existing institutional ways and means should be further developed. Many States Parties have been providing cooperation and assistance to other States Parties for many years. A mechanism developed by BWC States Parties should therefore complement and reinforce, rather than duplicate, these broader efforts. In the absence of an international organisation directly supporting implementation of the Convention (such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons or the International Atomic Energy Agency), we recommend, as a step toward the enhanced implementation of the Convention, the establishment of an ICA mechanism utilizing a programmatic approach funded through a voluntary trust fund governed by an ICA Fund Committee. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The objective of the mechanism should be to strengthen implementation by States Parties on all aspects of the Convention through international cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on Article X;</li> <li>• Such cooperation and assistance should support the implementation of all aspects of the Convention;</li> <li>• Cooperation and assistance programs and projects pursuant to the mechanism should seek to complement other international efforts, avoiding duplication with ongoing efforts and projects by international organisations as well as those of individual States Parties in a bilateral or multilateral context;</li> <li>• The establishment of an ICA mechanism is without prejudice to any other cooperation and assistance arrangements undertaken by any State Party bilaterally, multilaterally, or through an international entity in furtherance of its Article X obligations.</li> </ul>
BWC/WG/2/WP.13 (Pakistan) Paragraphs 7 and 11	<p>7. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Working Group consider operationalizing the Cooperation and Assistance Mechanism, mandated by the Ninth Review Conference, along the following three inter-connected institutional axis. These arrangements are presented without prejudice to other structures that may emerge from the ongoing or future efforts to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Cooperation and Assistance Program (ICAP);</li> <li>International Cooperation and Assistance Committee (ICAC);</li> <li>International Cooperation and Assistance Fund (ICAF).</li> </ol> <p>11. An International Cooperation and Assistance Committee (ICAC) (or ‘the Committee’) is proposed to be established which shall consider, review, approve and oversee implementation of the ICAP. The mandate of the ICAC may initially include the following which may be subject to periodic examination by the Review Conferences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote cooperation and assistance activities related to the Convention by examining, approving and overseeing implementation of the ICAP;</li> <li>Foster complementarity and synergies with cooperation initiatives of other international organizations in activities relating to the Convention, while seeking to avoid duplication;</li> <li>Facilitate communication and information sharing among States Parties to promote best practices, lessons learned, and successful case studies in utilizing biological technologies for peaceful purposes;</li> <li>Identify challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology, including equipment and material, for peaceful purposes to their full potential, and recommend ways and means to overcome the challenges and obstacles;</li> <li>Implement Article X Action Plans developed by the Review Conferences including through incorporating the relevant activities in ICAP;</li> <li>Oversee the management of Cooperation and Assistance Database;</li> <li>Develop and maintain a structured voluntary reporting mechanism and encourage States Parties to provide updates on their efforts to implement X;</li> </ol>

Reference	Aims, Objectives and Functions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h. Coordinate with the Science and Technology Review Mechanism with a view to identifying discoveries in biosciences that can open new avenues of cooperation between States Parties;</li> <li>i. Govern the ICAF pursuant to its Terms of Reference (TORs) as well as other extra-budgetary contributions to implement ICAP;</li> <li>j. Coordinate and collaborate with donors to secure extra-budgetary resources for ICAP including for capacity-building initiatives that support peaceful applications of biological sciences in less-developed countries and regions;</li> <li>k. Advise at the request of States Parties on national regulations and implementation measures with a view to facilitating international cooperation and assistance under Article X;</li> <li>l. Raise awareness on the benefits that accrue from promoting the peaceful uses of biological sciences and technologies;</li> <li>m. Coordinate the BWC Sponsorship program with the assistance of the ISU.</li> </ul>
BWC/WG/2/WP.14 (China) Paragraph 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Take into consideration all relevant proposals forwarded by States Parties to strengthen the international cooperation and assistance, especially the proposal of the NAM to establish a Cooperation Committee; and to establish a mechanism with the following mandates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Promote the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X.</li> <li>ii. Conduct a comprehensive review of the peaceful uses of bio-science and technology and related international cooperation under the framework of the Convention, with a view to promoting, in the fullest possible, the exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and relevant international cooperation; Identify and address the needs in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes; Identify and overcome the obstacles hampering the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X of the Convention, including by taking stock of the denial cases of States Parties.</li> <li>iii. Assist developing countries in their capacity building, with a view to empowering them enjoy the dividends of biotechnology development, through measures that include, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct assessments of practical needs of developing countries and research on more targeted and concrete measures for cooperation and assistance based on these assessments, in order to support their capacity building, inter alia, bridging gaps in their domestic governance, legislation and expertise, etc.;</li> <li>• Strengthen the operationalization of the Assistance and Cooperation Database and make concrete proposals on improving the utilization rate, timeliness and ease of use of the database;</li> <li>• Organize workshops and seminars on promoting the peaceful uses of bioscience and technology for the purpose of more exchanges and cooperation among States Parties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iv. Boost the support of the international community for peaceful uses and related international cooperation, including raising awareness of the importance of peaceful uses and related international cooperation among governments, industries, science community and relevant non-governmental organizations, and encouraging active participation in relevant discussions and practices.</li> <li>v. Conduct exchanges and cooperation with existing international organizations and regimes, inter alia, the WHO, FAO, WOA, UNSC 1540 Committee; welcome related multilateral non-proliferation export control regimes to present their efforts to the international community, including their work as well as the rationality of their decisions on export controls over certain items or technologies, and welcome them to listen widely to the views and recommendations of States Parties which are not their members.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Reference	Aims, Objectives and Functions
	b. Explore to establish a Non-proliferation Export Control and International Cooperation Regime, and discuss issues such as its structure, control list and transfer dispute settlement mechanism.
BWC/WG/2/WP.21 (Islamic Republic of Iran) Section A and B	<p>A. Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Cooperation Committee is aimed at facilitating and supporting the effective, full and non-discriminatory implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X of the Convention.</li> </ul> <p>B. Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee should perform the following functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. To consult on, monitor, review, recommend and decide on activities to facilitate and support international cooperation and assistance and the fullest possible exchanges of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of microbial and other biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes;</li> <li>b. To facilitate and promote non-discriminatory access of all States Parties to, and transfer of, technology, equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes;</li> <li>c. To identify challenges and obstacles to international cooperation as well as the needs of States Parties for assistance and cooperation; and to put forward practical recommendations on ways and means of addressing such challenges and removing of such obstacles;</li> <li>d. To consider denials of transfer of equipment, materials, and technology for peaceful purposes, and to provide a factual report as well as recommendations aimed at preventing such denials;</li> <li>e. To facilitate non-discriminatory bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation programs, on a mutually advantageous, equal and non-discriminatory basis;</li> <li>f. To facilitate and support capacity-building measures through international cooperation in developing capabilities for detecting, reporting, and responding to the outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of emergency preparedness, response, management, and mitigation;</li> <li>g. To facilitate and support the provision of training, technical advice, equipment and materials to improve capabilities of laboratories on the prevention, surveillance, detection and diagnosis of diseases;</li> <li>h. To conduct matchmaking between offers of, and requests for, cooperation and assistance, among States Parties to foster complementarity and synergies of cooperation initiatives, and to monitor and review the operation of Article X Database, and make recommendations aimed at promoting the functionality and effectiveness of the Database for assistance and cooperation;</li> <li>i. To promote and coordinate cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations for the financial and technological support of activities for peaceful purposes;</li> <li>j. To manage, in an equitable basis, financial resources allocated by States Parties to the cooperation activities including reviewing the performance of any possible voluntary fund – to be established to finance the activities aimed at promoting of cooperation among States Parties.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## ii. Functioning

Reference	Functioning
BWC/WG/2/WP.1 (ASEAN) Paragraphs 11 and 14	11. In this regard, ASEAN Member States support the development of a mechanism open to all States Parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance obligations under Article X of the Convention. Guided by the principled position of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States (NAM), ASEAN Member States support the proposal to establish a Cooperation Advisory Group, which shall function as a “steering committee,” integrated by rotating

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	<p>positions among the States Parties to the Convention. The mandate of this Cooperation Advisory Group could be reviewed by the Review Conference, whereas updates regarding its work could be addressed as an agenda point in the Meeting of States Parties.</p> <p>14. The proposed Cooperation Advisory Group could meet at least annually, on the margins of the Meeting of States Parties. The Chairmanship of the Group through the Chief of the Implementation Support Unit could inform its members in advance about the time and place of the meetings. Since the States Parties participating in the Group can be represented in these events by the same delegation to the regular meetings of the Convention, no additional financial costs to States Parties are expected for the functioning of the Group.</p>
<p>BWC/WG/2/WP.3/Rev.1 (Australia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Romania, United Kingdom, and United States) Paragraph 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mechanism will be open to participation from all States Parties;</li> <li>• The voluntary trust fund will be governed by an ICA Fund Committee (hereinafter “the Committee”) with limited membership, selected by regional groups;</li> <li>• The Committee will review and take decisions on ICA proposals submitted by States Parties and monitor approved projects;</li> <li>• Donor States Parties, recipient States Parties, and potentially other sources, upon approval of a project by the Committee, will coordinate on the implementation of the approved project and inform the Committee;</li> <li>• The Committee will be governed by and take all decisions by consensus;</li> <li>• The Committee will be composed of 15 States Parties with three States Parties designated by each of the five UN Regional Groups (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western European and Other States) and the designees will be appointed to renewable two-year terms;</li> <li>• The Committee will be chaired for a two-year term by a Committee member beginning with a member from the Africa Group and rotating alphabetically through the other regions;</li> <li>• Any State Party may submit a request for ICA directly to the Committee for consideration. States Parties may also submit a request jointly, including for regional activities;</li> <li>• To facilitate the work of the mechanism, donor States Parties will be invited to present funding proposals and discuss ICA requests submitted to the Committee by a State Party or group of States Parties;</li> <li>• The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs will disburse funds for specific programs and projects from the voluntary trust fund once approved by the Committee and consistent with any requirements of relevant donor States Parties;</li> <li>• If the Committee does not approve a program or project for which a donor State Party has provided funds, or if there are remaining unspent funds following the approval or completion of relevant projects, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs will return the relevant share of funds attributable to the donor State Party upon its request.</li> <li>• The Committee will meet biannually to receive an update by the ISU and donor States Parties, review current efforts, and consider new ICA proposals;</li> <li>• The Chair of the Committee will update the annual Meeting of States Parties (MSP) providing information on ICA proposals being implemented or under review. The MSP will provide an opportunity for States Parties to express their views to the Committee on the operation of the ICA mechanism and raise any broader issues regarding the implementation of Article X;</li> <li>• In addition to its voluntary fund responsibilities, the Committee will coordinate with the ISU regarding existing ICA activities – the Assistance and Cooperation Database and the BWC Sponsorship program;</li> </ul>
<p>BWC/WG/2/WP.13 (Pakistan) Paragraphs 12-15</p>	<p>12. The International Cooperation and Assistance Committee, open to all States Parties, will consist of twenty-five representatives of States Parties nominated by regional groups for a period of two-years and endorsed by the MSPs. The composition will reflect the proportion of States Parties in the current or future informal regional groups of the BWC while taking into account the principle of</p>

Reference	Functioning
	<p>geographical representation. The Committee members may possess technical expertise in the fields of biological sciences, public health, agriculture, or other relevant domains. The distribution of nominations by regional groups will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group of Non-Aligned Movement and Other States: 15 seats (Africa: 6, Asia: 5, Latin America: 4);</li> <li>• Western Group: 5 seats;</li> <li>• Eastern European Group: 4 seats;</li> <li>• Floating seats: 1 seat (For Group of One for every second term, and distributed equally among other Groups for the other term).</li> </ul> <p>13. The ICAC will report to the annual Meeting of States Parties on details of the new ICAP agreed by the Committee (every second year) as well as on implementation status of existing ICAP. A standing agenda item pertaining to cooperation and assistance under Article X at the annual MSPs will be used to review and endorse the ICAP submitted by the Committee.</p> <p>14. The meetings of ICAC will take place twice a year over a total number of 6 days (three days per session). The second session of the Committee will precede the annual meeting of MSPs. The functioning of ICAC including the frequency of its meetings could be modified by the Review Conferences.</p> <p>15. The costs of functioning and servicing of ICAC and related support provided by the ISU will be financed by regular assessed annual financial contributions of States Parties to the Convention.</p>
BWC/WG/2/WP.14 (China) Paragraph 8	<p>a) vi. Submit report to the Meeting of States Parties and the Review Conference on its recommendations to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X of the Convention. Form an Action Plan with concrete measures, time frames and evaluation methods.</p> <p>d) Discuss arrangements related to the above-mentioned mechanisms, including the composition of members, rules of procedure, frequency of meetings, source of funding, decision-making, as appropriate, bearing in mind such basic principles as professionalism, independence and consensus-based approach, with reflection of geographical and gender balance and full representation of developing countries.</p>
BWC/WG/2/WP.21 (Islamic Republic of Iran) Sections C - I	<p>C. Composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the committee is open to all States Parties that nominate a representative, who may be accompanied by alternate(s) and/or adviser(s).</li> </ul> <p>D. Rules of Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BWC Review Conference's Rules of Procedure shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of the committee.</li> </ul> <p>E. Chairmanship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee shall elect one of its members as its chair for the duration of one year, rotating between regional groups.</li> </ul> <p>F. Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee will meet at least twice a year for a duration of one week each, one session should be held immediately prior to the Meeting of States Parties. Additional meetings may be convened in accordance with the committee's rules of procedure.</li> <li>• The Chair of the committee shall inform, through the ISU, its members in advance about the time and place of the meetings.</li> <li>• Relevant international organizations could be invited to attend the committee meetings.</li> </ul> <p>G. Decisions and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All substantive recommendations and decisions of the committee will be adopted by consensus.</li> </ul> <p>H. Review of the Mandate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mandate of the committee could be reviewed by the Review Conference.</li> </ul> <p>I. Reporting</p>



Reference	Functioning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee will submit an annual report to the MSPs for its consideration. It also will submit a final report to the Review Conference for its consideration</li> </ul>

## B. Programmatic Approach

Reference	Programmatic Approach
BWC/WG/2/WP.1 (ASEAN) Paragraph 15	15. Recalling the principled position of the NAM, ASEAN Member States also support the establishment of a result-oriented Article X Action Plan and of a Voluntary Trust Fund for the full implementation of Article X, funded by voluntary contributions by States Parties and other actors in a position to provide them.
BWC/WG/2/WP.2 (UK) Paragraph 14	<p>14. Rather than focusing on adopting an ‘action plan’, the United Kingdom believes that States Parties should examine practical measures on a realistic basis, consider carefully how these measures would work in real-world scenarios, and prioritise allocating resource to the Implementation Support Unit (overseen by States Parties) as a means of delivering impact. Over the years States Parties have discussed a range of such proposals, and at the Working Group meeting in August, States Parties should also consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A flagship BTWC Partnership Programme, to help improve national implementation including advice, expertise and support relevant to Articles IV, VII and X, and further promote universalisation of the Convention</li> <li>b. Strengthened Article X reporting guidelines and standards, to help enhance cooperation and assistance by highlighting relevant work and identifying the needs and gaps on a more regularised basis, which could be a focus for future projects relating to implementation of the BTWC. All States Parties should be encouraged and supported to submit such reports;</li> <li>c. An enhanced and effective database, covering Articles IV, VII and X, with guidance and templates for States Parties who are either seeking assistance or providing funds, and other support including a match-making process that links requests and offers. This could incorporate previous proposals for a database for assistance under Article VII;</li> <li>d. A dedicated online platform for biosafety and biosecurity stakeholders (SecBio) to find relevant laws, regulations, norms and standards, exchange information and identify best practice;</li> <li>e. Closer, systematic linkages and programmes with other relevant organisations (including the WHO, WOA, IPPC and FAO), to help ensure BTWC projects add value and do not duplicate existing work</li> <li>f. Augmenting existing projects delivered by States Parties such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supporting laboratory twinning (especially BSL4 and BSL3), the provision of biosafety and biosecurity advice and training to reduce biological risks, and help to support enhanced laboratory infrastructure to meet a clear regional need. This could build on previous work such as BSL4ZNet (by UK, US, Canada, Australia and Germany) and WOA’s Lab Twinning programme;</li> <li>○ Enhanced in-country and regional capability for surveillance, detection, diagnosis, reporting and response to infectious disease outbreaks, including collaborative research projects and access to relevant technology and training e.g. to develop and produce vaccines.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
BWC/WG/2/WP.13 (Pakistan) Paragraphs 8-10	<p>International Cooperation and Assistance Program (ICAP)</p> <p>8. The International Cooperation and Assistance Program (ICAP) is envisaged as the main vehicle to design, facilitate and deliver projects pursuant to the cooperation and assistance framework envisioned in Article X of the Convention.</p>



Reference	Programmatic Approach
	<p>9. The ICAP is foreseen as rolling biennial program consisting of project proposals designed to address specific needs and priorities of States Parties, with a particular focus on the developing countries. The project proposals in the promotional and regulatory realms shall be prepared by States Parties, in consultation with and assistance from the Implementation Support Unit (ISU).</p> <p>10. Each project proposal shall outline the intended objectives, desired outcomes, and the resources required for its successful implementation. The biennial ICAP, as prepared and compiled by the ISU, will be presented to ICAC for its consideration and approval. (Please see Part III below). The ICAP will be funded through International Cooperation and Assistance Fund (ICAF as indicated below in Part IV) and other extra-budgetary contributions.</p>
<p>BWC/WG/2/WP.22 (Georgia, Malawi, Norway, and the Philippines) Paragraphs 1, 4-5</p>	<p>1. During the Ninth Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC), broad convergence emerged around the following five elements of a mechanism on international cooperation and assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Cooperation Advisory Group;</li> <li>• A result-oriented Action Plan;</li> <li>• A Voluntary Trust Fund;</li> <li>• An improved Cooperation and Assistance Database System;</li> <li>• Additional personnel at the Implementation Support Unit.</li> </ul> <p>4. In this context, the delegations of Georgia, Malawi, Norway, and the Philippines submit the following non-exhaustive considerations regarding a possible Action Plan, as a basis for further discussion:</p> <p>(a) The Action Plan would assist the Advisory Group in fulfilling its mandate. In order for the Cooperation Advisory Group to be effective, the Action Plan should not be prescriptive;</p> <p>(b) The Action Plan could provide guidance for the identification and development of international cooperation and assistance projects that promote the specific objective and purpose of the Convention, and taking into account existing international cooperation and assistance activities through other international, intergovernmental, and regional platforms;</p> <p>(c) The elaboration of the Action Plan could be guided by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Specialization. Actions should be designed to support the specific objective and purpose of the BWC and avoid duplicating or encroaching on the domains covered by specialized international organizations.</li> <li>ii. Complementarity. Actions should be designed to complement established international cooperation and assistance activities, including the work of specialized international organizations in the life sciences.</li> <li>iii. Practicability. Actions should be practicable and feasible.</li> </ul> <p>5. The Action Plan could include relevant baselines and indicators and focus States Parties' efforts into enhancing national capacities or complementing existing international cooperation and assistance to enhance national capacities on, inter alia, the following:</p> <p>(a) Preventing the development and spread of biological weapons, including through the development of institutional frameworks, capacities and exchange of best practices;</p> <p>(b) Preventing, detecting, and building preparedness for harmful biological incidents, including through biorisk and biosafety management;</p> <p>(c) Responding to harmful biological incidents, whether natural, accidental, or intentional, including through capacity-building, institutional cooperation, delivery of necessary public health goods and equipment including but not limited to vaccines and medicines;</p> <p>(d) Law enforcement response to biological incidents arising from criminal or other unlawful activities.</p>

Reference	Programmatic Approach
BWC/WG/2/WP.23 (Panama) Section I, sub-paragraphs a) to g)	<p>I. International cooperation and assistance:</p> <p>(a) Encourage State Parties in a position to do so to promote and fund capacitybuilding programmes under Article X that include gender analysis in the curriculum, such as traineeships, fellowships and mentorship programmes.</p> <p>(b) Support the establishment of a fellowship programme for women diplomats in BWC, similarly to the “Women in Cyber” fellowship, in order to ensure equal and effective representation of women diplomats from all regions in the BWC meetings and to develop governance capacities and expertise in areas relevant to the BWC.</p> <p>(c) Encourage States Parties to support and fund research under Article X on the differentiated impacts of biological weapons on women, men, boys and girls, in order to generate knowledge and building an understanding of sex-based differences in immune response to potential biological agents, as well as the potential similarities and differences between gendered implications in deliberate and natural outbreaks.</p> <p>(d) Mainstream a gender perspective in all BWC existing and possible future initiatives related to Article X, including but not limited to the assistance and cooperation database, the action plan, the voluntary trust fund, the online platform to promote exchange of information and best practices related to biosafety and biosecurity frameworks and the international cooperation and assistance program.</p> <p>(e) Include gender balance criteria to the selection process of candidates for the sponsorship programme in order to promote the overall equal representation of women and men in the BWC meetings.</p> <p>(f) Promote scholarships for Master’s programmes with internship opportunities with the aim to enable more women from around the world to pursue careers in life sciences, biosecurity and biosafety, science diplomacy and in other fields relevant to the BWC, similar to the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP).</p> <p>(g) Ensure gender-balanced mechanism to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X.</p>

### C. Funding

Reference	Funding
BWC/WG/2/WP.1 (ASEAN) Paragraph 15	15. Recalling the principled position of the NAM, ASEAN Member States also support the establishment of a result-oriented Article X Action Plan and of a Voluntary Trust Fund for the full implementation of Article X, funded by voluntary contributions by States Parties and other actors in a position to provide them.
BWC/WG/2/WP.3/ Rev.1 (Australia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Romania, United Kingdom, and United States) Paragraph 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A voluntary trust fund under the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs will be established to receive voluntary contributions and grants from States Parties and potentially from other sources, and to disburse such funds for approved programs and projects;</li> </ul>
BWC/WG/2/WP.13 (Pakistan)	International Cooperation and Assistance Fund (ICAF) (or ‘Fund’)

Reference	Funding
Paragraphs 16-22	<p>16. The International Cooperation and Assistance Fund is envisaged as a vehicle to mobilize voluntary contributions. However, in order to ensure predictability, such financial contributions will be assessed as per the UN scale of assessment for all States Parties, for the purpose of financing ICAP's activities and projects. The Fund will be operated independently of the regular assessed contributions that are currently billed to States Parties.</p> <p>17. The nature of voluntary but assessed contributions will help to ensure that the Fund is transparent, assured and predictable with the widest level of participation. It will also enable smooth implementation of collective priorities as contained in ICAP. All States Parties will be encouraged to contribute to the Fund as per their assessed scale, which will be prepared and shared by the ISU.</p> <p>18. The annual target of ICAF will be recommended by ICAC for every two years of ICAP cycle and will be approved by the Review Conferences.</p> <p>19. In addition to the Fund, the ICAC, with the help of ISU, will also report on the extrabudgetary contributions expected to be received from various donor States and organizations for the implementation of ICAP projects.</p> <p>Organizational, Institutional and Financial aspects of the proposal</p> <p>20. The proposal will entail following organizational, institutional and financial aspects:</p> <p>Meeting Servicing Costs</p> <p>Meeting servicing costs of the two sessions of ICAC for a total number of six days per year.</p> <p>Strengthening human resource at the Implementation Support Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to support the development and implementation of ICAP; to assist the ICAC to deliver on its mandate; and to help in governing and operationalization of the ICAF, the ISU will require additional human resources;</li> <li>• To perform these additional tasks, five dedicated full-time staff members will be added to the ISU21. The above costs will be financed through regular assessed budget contributions.</li> </ul> <p>21. The above costs will be financed through regular assessed budget contributions.</p> <p>22. In addition to the above costs, all other expenditures pertaining to implementation of ICAP projects, cost of ICAF governance, and remaining activities of ICAC, in accordance with its mandate, will be met through ICAF as well as extra-budgetary contributions.</p>
BWC/WG/2/WP.14 (China) Paragraph 8	c) Explore to establish a Fund for Peaceful Uses of Bio-science and Technology and International Cooperation, which aims to provide targeted funding for seminars, workshops, assistance and exchanges relevant to the Convention.

#### D. Proposed Staffing

Reference	Staffing
BWC/WG/2/WP.2 (ASEAN) Paragraph 15	15. Information about the implementation of these measures could be collated by the Implementation Support Unit, with two additional positions to ensure adequate resource, and shared with States Parties through the annual Meetings of States Parties.
BWC/WG/2/WP.3/ Rev.1 (Australia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assist the work of the Committee, two dedicated full-time staff members will be added to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) financed through assessed budget contributions;</li> </ul>

Reference	Staffing
Japan, Latvia, Romania, United Kingdom, and United States) Paragraph 2	
BWC/WG/2/WP.13 (Pakistan) Paragraph 20	<p>Strengthening human resource at the Implementation Support Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to support the development and implementation of ICAP; to assist the ICAC to deliver on its mandate; and to help in governing and operationalization of the ICAF, the ISU will require additional human resources;</li> <li>• To perform these additional tasks, five dedicated full-time staff members will be added to the ISU.</li> </ul>