Cuba

Item 8. Biennial Topic: how to strengthen the implementation of Article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and the cooperation of States parties.

MEETING OF EXPERTS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND THEIR DESTRUCTION (BTWC). GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, FROM 10 TO 14 AUGUST 2015

National document entitled "Considerations of Cuba on how to strengthen the implementation of Article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation of States parties"

1. The international capacities to respond, research and mitigate the effects if alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of diseases arise from the set of measures and regulations that countries adopt at the national level; the provisions of the BTWC, and the work by international specialized agencies such as WHO, OIE and FAO, within their respective mandates.

2. While recognizing the contribution of the United Nations and specialized international organizations such as WHO, OIE and FAO on the capacity-building for disease surveillance, Cuba considers that the role of these organizations is in accordance with their respective mandates and do not replace the role of the Convention, nor can they interfere with its mandate.

3. States parties should continue working to increase national capacities to respond to the alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of diseases as a contribution to strengthening the international capacities.

4. To the extent that all States parties to the Convention possess better prepared institutions, trained personnel and an appropriate national regulatory framework will be better able to make their contribution to the international set of capabilities on the same subject.
5. The application of Article X of the Convention is critical to achieving the strengthening of national capacities.

6. States parties able to do so, and upon request of the interested parties may implement, among others, the following measures, as a contribution especially to developing countries:

a) To help create an appropriate national system of health care that can respond effectively to disease outbreaks;

b) To contribute to the training of necessary human resources to fight outbreaks of diseases;

c) To transfer technologies to help improve national capacities for diagnosis, research and response to disease outbreaks, including means of protection;

d) To promote the academic and scientific exchange between national experts related to biosafety.

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