BWC 2013 Meeting of Experts

ROLLING, DETAILED INDICATIVE SCHEDULE

This detailed schedule combines the information contained in the Chair’s letter of 28 June as well as information provided by States Parties on planned contributions. It will continue to be updated and amended as additional information becomes available. The information contained is designed to assist States Parties in their preparations for the meetings and help those participating. For the formal Agenda see BWC/MSP/2013/MX/1 and for the Programme of Work, see BWC/MSP/2013/MX/2.

Monday 12 August

09.00–10.00   Reserved for regional group meetings

10.00–13.00   **Opening Session** (Room XIX)
Opening formalities (agenda items 1-4)

Introductory statements

Informal session for NGO statements

13.00-15.00   **Compliance** – Kings College London (Room XXIII)

15.00-18.00   **Working Session 1** (Room XIX)
How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (agenda item 8)

• CBM Guide produced by the EU Action in Support of the BWC
• Update on WP.1 from 2012 Meeting of States Parties
• Update on WP.4 from 2012 Meeting of Experts
• Possible areas for a more substantive and structured discussion

18.00-19.30   **Poster session** (outside Room XIX)

Tuesday 13 August

09.00-10.00   **Dual Use Education** – Bradford University, US National Academies of Science, Landau Network – Centro Volta (Room XXIII)

10.00-13.00   **Working Session 2**
Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X (agenda item 5)

(a) Reports by States Parties on their implementation of Article X, and reports by the ISU on the operation of the database system to facilitate assistance requests and offers.

• International assistance in biosecurity assurance
• BWC ISU report on the database
• Georgia
• The German Program for Excellence in Biological and Health Security

(b) 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 possible means of overcoming these.

• BWC ISU introducing a background paper
• Strengthening International Cooperation and Assistance in the BWC: Summary of a Workshop
• Promoting access to Medical Technologies and Innovation – a Report by WTO, WIPO and WHO

(c) A range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of Article X taking into account all of its provisions, including facilitation of cooperation and assistance, including in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes, and identification of critical gaps and needs in these areas.

• Use of information technology in disease surveillance
• Human infections with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus and Avian Influenza A(H7N9)
• Dealing with an unexpected disease outbreak: Experience of H7N9
• Collaboration on diagnostic technologies: Experience of H7N9
• Medical Biodefence Conference in Germany

(d) Ways and means to target and mobilize resources, including financial resources, to address gaps and needs for assistance and cooperation, in particular from developed to developing States Parties, and from international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

13.00-15.00 Mini-university – Geneva Forum (Room XXII)

15.00-18.00 Working Session 3 (Room XIX)
Cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X (agenda item 5).

(e) Education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries.

• OIE Laboratory Twinning on Brucellosis (UK/Turkey)
• A joint international PhD in Bioengineering – Peking and Emory University

(f) Capacity-building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity, and for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation.

• Building biosafety and biosecurity capacity in low resource settings
• The 5 year plan on biosafety of the WHO
• Activities of the OIE, including on Rinderpest sequestration
• The 5 year strategy of the International Federation of Biosafety Associations
• Exchanges on biosafety and biosecurity between Switzerland and Iraq

(g) Coordination of cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

Wednesday 14 August

09.00-10.00 Dealing with Dual Use Research of Concern – Indonesian Academy of Sciences & Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (Room XXIII)

10.00-13.00 Working Session 4 (Room XIX)
Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention (agenda item 6), focusing on advances in technologies for surveillance, detection, diagnosis and mitigation of infectious diseases, and similar occurrences caused by toxins in humans, animals and plants.
(a) New science and technology developments that have potential for uses contrary to the provisions of the Convention.

(b) New science and technology developments that have potential benefits for the Convention, including those of special relevance to disease surveillance, diagnosis and mitigation.
   • BWC ISU introducing a background paper (BWC ISU)
   • Industrial production of a synthetic biology-derived anti-malarial precursor (Sanofi)
   • Towards field-ready, mobile PCR diagnostics (Nanbiosys)
   • Results of a new generation deployable rapid diagnostic laboratory development project (Hungary)
   • Biosecurity System for Livestock Disease Control: Republic of Korea
   • Detection of disease (Poland)
   • Introducing Working Paper 11 (South Africa)
   • United States of America

(c) Possible measures for strengthening national biological risk management, as appropriate, in research and development involving new science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention.
   • Informal consultations at WHO on Dual Use Research (WHO)
   • Synthetic Biology Observatory: a tool for dialogue between sciences and society (France)

13.00-15.00 Convergence of biology and chemistry and opportunities for outreach and education – OPCW and BWC ISU (Room XXIII)

15.00-18.00 Working Session 5 (Room XIX)
Review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention (agenda item 6), focusing on advances in technologies for surveillance, detection, diagnosis and mitigation of infectious diseases, and similar occurrences caused by toxins in humans, animals and plants.

(d) Voluntary codes of conduct and other measures to encourage responsible conduct by scientists, academia and industry.
   • Moral and ethical issues with dual use research of concern, including gain-of-function-studies (Wain-Hobson)
   • Code of conduct for scientists – recent activities of Science Council of Japan
   • Indonesia

(e) Education and awareness-raising about risks and benefits of life sciences and biotechnology.

(f) Science- and technology-related developments relevant to the activities of multilateral organizations such as the WHO, OIE, FAO, IPPC and OPCW.
   • The value of scientific advisory boards (Switzerland)
   • Convergence of biology and chemistry: Activities of the OPCW SAB TWG
   • Education and outreach: Activities of the OPCW SAB TWG

(g) Any other science and technology developments of relevance to the Convention.

Thursday 15 August

09.00-10.00 International Assistance for Public Health Emergencies – United States of America (Room XXIII)

10.00-13.00 Working Session 6 (Room XIX)
Strengthening national implementation (agenda item 7).

• Germany
• France

(a) A range of specific measures for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention, especially Articles III and IV.
• Developing guidance and a project update on the EU Action to Support the BWC (BWC ISU)
• Forum for Biopreparedness Diagnostics (Sweden)
• Structure, powers and activities of Rospotrebnadzor in the context of BWC national implementation. (Russian Federation)

(b) Ways and means to enhance national implementation, sharing best practices and experiences, including the voluntary exchange of information among States Parties on their national implementation, enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions.
• The 1540 Committee
• Strengthening national implementation: VERTIC
• Strengthening national implementation: ICRC
• The INTERPOL Bioterrorism Prevention Programme

(c) Regional and sub-regional cooperation that can assist national implementation of the Convention.

15.00-18.00 Working Session 7 (Room XIX)
Strengthening national implementation (agenda item 7).

(d) National, regional and international measures to improve laboratory biosafety and security of pathogens and toxins.
• Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines

(e) Any potential further measures, as appropriate, relevant for implementation of the Convention.
• An update on Working Paper 11 from the 2012 Meeting of States Parties
• Canada
• Germany

Friday 16 August

10.00-13.00 Working Session 8
How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs (agenda item 8).

15.00-18.00 Closing Session
Adoption of the factual report reflecting the deliberations of the meeting (agenda item 9)

Closing of the meeting (agenda item 10)