

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their
Destruction**

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English only

2019 Meeting

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts
reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes**

**Report on Germany's Implementation of Article X
with a special focus on the "German Biosecurity
Programme"**

Submitted by Germany**I. Introduction**

1. Germany is fully committed to all articles of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and strongly supports the implementation of Article X, which requires States Parties to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes, as well as to cooperate in contributing to the further development and application of scientific discoveries in the field of bacteriology (biology) for the prevention of disease or for other peaceful purposes.

2. In accordance with the Final Document of the 7th Review Conference, in which States Parties were encouraged to share their contribution to implementing Article X, Germany herewith provides an update on its activities. This report does not aim to offer a comprehensive outline of German endeavours contributing to the aforementioned article, but rather highlights three relevant examples, the German Biosecurity Programme, which is about to enter its third programme phase, the German Enable and Enhance Initiative and the biannual Medical Biodefence Conference. This information is complemented with figures on Germany's Official Development Assistance in relevant categories.

3. Germany has regularly reported its government activities that support the objectives of Article X. The last national report in 2014 also focused on the "German Partnership Programme for Excellence in Biological and Health Security", which has since been renamed the "German Biosecurity Programme" ([BWC/MSP/2014/WP.10](#)). Since then, Germany has regularly contributed to group reports by the G7 Global Partnership against the Spread of Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction (GP) ([BWC/MSP/2015/WP.5](#), [BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.21](#), [BWC/MSP/2017/WP.17](#), [BWC/MSP/2018/WP.9](#)). Similar information is also included in the background information document on the implementation of Article X, compiled by the ISU for the 8th Review Conference ([BWC/CONF.VIII/INF.4](#)).

4. Germany welcomes the Australian initiative to share its approach to structure and content ([BWC/MSP/2018/WP.2](#)), that proposes to focus on two types of activities: Firstly, countering biological terrorism and proliferation, and, secondly, disease prevention and addressing pandemics as well as emerging infectious diseases. Activities in both fields often

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intersect with each other, as is the case with the German Biosecurity Programme, presented in depth in this report.

5. Partnerships between individuals, industry, foundations, universities, and other non-governmental organisations are an essential element of scientific exchange, cooperation and assistance. This report, however, concentrates on government-funded cooperation and assistance activities.

II. In Detail

A. Specific endeavours relevant to Article X

German Biosecurity Programme

6. The German Biosecurity Programme, formerly the German Partnership Programme for Excellence in Biological and Health Security, is part of Germany's engagement in the GP. The programme was launched by the Federal Foreign Office in 2013 and has to date (end of 2019) operated on a total budget of around 45 million euros. In its second phase (2017-2019), the programme is currently running with a budget of 19.3 million euros in 12 selected partner countries, as well as with two supranational projects. Based on the positive outcomes the German Biosecurity Programme has already generated, a third programme phase has been initiated, funding projects from 2020 until 2022.

7. Scientific German institutions execute these projects in their area of expertise, including the Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNI), the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute for Animal Health (FLI), the Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology (IMB), the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. A programme office based at the German Federal Foreign Office is responsible for coordination within the programme and is managed jointly by RKI and GIZ.

8. The German Biosecurity Programme is guided by the GP's Biological Security Deliverables. Through needs-based projects, flexible methodology and a sustainable approach, it provides an integrated German contribution to global biological safety and security. The projects of the German Biosecurity Programme focus on six areas: awareness raising, networking, capacity development, detection and diagnostics of pathogens, disease surveillance and biosafety and biosecurity.

9. The programme aims at reducing biological security risks caused by high-consequence pathogens through a comprehensive approach, thereby strengthening the prevention and response capacities of its partner countries facing potential biological attacks. Germany is working closely together with its respective national partners in order to foster sustainable knowledge and capabilities based on long-term relationships and learning, making use of concepts such as the training-of-trainers approach. By joint practice, evaluation and modification of the activities together with its partners, Germany aims at creating a long-lasting impact.

10. In the focal countries Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan, and through and in close collaboration with their respective local partners, the RKI and the GIZ have successfully implemented various projects, contributing to the creation of a national emergency operation centre in Morocco that will coordinate the response in the event of incidents involving biological agents. A newly established code of conduct for scientists in Tunisia raises awareness of questions of dual-use in biological research. Moreover, Germany assisted its Tunisian partners with the development of a biosecurity curriculum for health experts. In Sudan, the programme has been able to support the development of a national biosafety and biosecurity policy and of a nationwide laboratory network.

11. The aforementioned projects are complemented by activities in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Partner countries are Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Ukraine, Egypt, Pakistan, Cameroon, Mauritania and Sierra Leone. Activities include establishing methods for the detection and diagnostics of highly pathogenic bacteria and

viruses, implementing international laboratory standards, educating young scientists, building national and international scientific networks and supporting awareness on dual-use and bioethics.

12. The training programme International Global Partnership Initiated Academia for the Control of Health Threats (GIBACHT), implemented by the BNI with support of the RKI, and the online platform GO4BSB that is coordinated by the BNI, represent the supraregional element within the German Biosecurity programme and enable the participants to create networks and share their knowledge in order to foster biosafety and biosecurity in their respective countries.

German Biosecurity Programme

Title of measures	Partner Countries	Implementing Agency	Time frame
Focal partnerships with activities in the areas of surveillance, biosafety and biosecurity, detection and diagnostics, awareness raising, networking and capacity development	Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH & Robert Koch Institute	2013-2019
Establishment of German-Georgian ("Southwest-Asian Network for Development of Biosecurity in the Caucasus Region") and German-Kazakh networks for biosecurity and diagnosis of dangerous infectious diseases	Georgia, Kazakhstan	Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	2013-2019
Sustainable Biosecurity by means of Diagnostics and Surveillance of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Kosovo	Kosovo	Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine	2013-2019
Projects on increasing Biosecurity and Biosafety by improvements in diagnostics and seroprevalence surveys of Crimean-Congo-Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and Hanta Virus (HTNV); for diagnosing and handling highly pathogenic animal and zoonotic agents in Ukraine and the establishment of a German-Ukraine	Ukraine	Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute for Animal Health and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	2016-2019

*German Biosecurity Programme***Biosecurity Initiative for
Risk Management of
Zoonosis**

Projects on minimising risks to public health and dangers arising from biological threats through Crimean-Congo-Haemorrhagic Fever and Rift Valley Fever in Mauritania, Cameroon and Sierra Leone, the establishment of a laboratory network in Pakistan and strengthening the cooperation with Egypt in terms of biosecurity	Egypt, Pakistan, and Sub-Saharan Africa (Cameroon, Mauritania, Sierra Leone)	Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute for Animal Health	2013-2019
International Global Partnership Initiated Academia for the Control of Health Threats (GIBACHT): Training of scientists from Africa and Asia for the prevention of highly pathogenic diseases	Multiple countries in Asia and Africa	Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine and Robert Koch Institute	2013-2019
German Online Platform for Biosecurity & Biosafety (GO4BSB)	supraregional	Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute for Animal Health and Robert Koch Institute	2017-2019

German Enable & Enhance Initiative

13. Since 2016, Germany has supported biosecurity in the framework of the Enable and Enhance Initiative. The aim of the initiative, for which the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Defense share responsibility, is to enable selected partners to respond more effectively to national and regional threats.

14. In Tunisia, IMB, RKI and GIZ work with their partners to strengthen Tunisian inter-sectoral capacities to respond efficiently to biological threats. A Tunisian Rapid Response Team is receiving training to enhance preparedness to deploy a mobile laboratory that was handed over in 2017. Furthermore, the establishment of a Task Force for extraordinary biological threats strengthens inter-sectoral response in the event of a biological emergency.

15. In the G5-Sahel States, IMB and GIZ are supporting their partners in establishing a regional G5-Sahel Biosecurity network, by providing a mobile laboratory in order to improve detection and diagnostics capabilities, and by training a regional Rapid Response Team to ensure future cross-border deployment of the mobile laboratory.

16. The effectiveness of the Enable and Enhance Initiative and its comprehensive approach was impressively demonstrated in October / November 2019, when both mobile laboratory teams from Tunisia and G5-Sahel deployed to Burkina Faso for a field exercise, assisted by the Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

17. In Nigeria, the BNI in close cooperation with its partners aims at advancing diagnostics and surveillance of haemorrhagic fevers to reduce regional biological risks. It also supports the establishment of a training centre for molecular diagnostics.

Enable & Enhance Initiative

Title of measures	Partner Countries	Implementing Agency	Time frame
Enable & Enhance Initiative – Tunisia	Tunisia	Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology, Robert Koch Institute and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	2016-2020
Enable & Enhance Initiative – Mali/G5 Sahel	G5 Sahel (Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mauritania)	Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	2017-2020
Enable & Enhance Initiative - Nigeria	Nigeria	Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine	2016-2020

Medical Biodefence Conference 2018

18. In October 2018 the 16th Medical Biodefence Conference¹ took place in Munich, Germany. This biennial conference is organised by the IMB and is regularly announced in the German CBM declarations. The Medical Biodefence Conference is open for participation by scientific and operational stakeholders from all over the world. It focuses on medical aspects of biodefence, presenting the latest research findings and products in the areas of diagnostics, treatment and prevention of diseases caused by human and animal pathogens and toxins relevant for misuse as biological weapons. In 2018 around 500 civil and military scientists and other stakeholders from 58 countries participated in the conference which is one of the world-leading meetings for biodefence activities. The 17th Medical Biodefence Conference will take place from 13-16 October 2020.

B. Bilateral ODA 2013–2017

19. Germany does not interpret the requirements set out in Article X in a narrow sense, but views cooperation and assistance from the wider perspective of Official Development

¹ www.biodefence.de

Assistance (ODA) as defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

20. Data on German Official Development Assistance (ODA) grants and loans is collated together with the respective data from other OECD Member States on the website of OECD². The data is broken down into various categories of assistance and cooperation. Data is available on an annual basis except for the last two years. For this report 2017 represents the last survey year.

21. The following table combines the figures for the categories General and Basic Health. General Health covers sub-categories like health policy and administrative management, medical education/training, medical research, and medical services. Basic Health includes basic health care, basic health infrastructure, health education, infectious disease control, malaria control, tuberculosis control, and health personnel development.

	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Health (total)	\$656.87m	\$511.96m	\$491.99m	\$459.96m	\$667.74m

² <http://stats.oecd.org/qwids/>