
**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**

22 November 2021

English and Russian only

2020 Meeting**Geneva, 22-25 November 2021**

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts
reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes****Report on Implementation of Article X of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the
Development, Production and Stockpiling of
Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons
and on their Destruction****Submitted by the Russian Federation**

1. The Russian Federation is committed to the unconditional implementation of all articles of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC).
2. The Russian Federation makes vigorous and comprehensive efforts to realize Article X of the Convention addressing international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities.
3. We place great importance on the implementation of Article X. We believe that its realization should be based on the principle of respecting the interests of beneficiary States Parties, building their capacity to detect and respond to biological threats. The States Parties to the Convention should openly and transparently transfer knowledge, information, technologies, materials, and equipment designed to combat infectious diseases as well as provide funding for research.
4. We consistently cooperate with countries in different regions of the world and assist them in preventing and responding to biological threats as well as in preventing infectious diseases.
5. In 2020-2021 the pandemic of COVID-19, the disease caused by a new type of coronavirus infection, has had a significant impact on the development of this cooperation. Since the beginning of the pandemic the Russian Federation offered assistance to all interested States.
6. In January 2020 the Russian Research Centre Vector has entered the WHO COVID-19 Reference Laboratory Network. The WHO Regional Office for Europe has received video courses in Russian on diagnosis, prevention and treatment of COVID-19 which were used by WHO Regional Offices for training healthcare workers from Central Asia.
7. Since February 2020 we have donated over 2 million Russian-made Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) diagnostic tests, laboratory and medical equipment, mobile laboratories to 50 countries around the world. We provided assistance in staff training, anti-epidemic measures, preventing and fighting COVID-19 in Abkhazia, Armenia, Italy, Kazakhstan,



Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, South Ossetia.

8. In one of the most difficult periods of the pandemic such activities have been carried out in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, and Serbia with the involvement of personnel and equipment of the Russian Ministry of Defence. Our specialists have disinfected 300 facilities of civilian infrastructure, 2,5 million square meters of the interior of buildings and structures, 562 thousand square meters of roads.

9. We have provided useful and practical assistance to CIS and SCO countries in combating COVID-19, building a medical care system and in diagnosing, treating and preventing the new coronavirus infection. In several states in Eastern Europe, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia, Russia has implemented scientific cooperation programmes in order to detect changes in the virus genome, predict incidence rates and plan preventive measures. We developed research algorithms, held training seminars for specialists, jointly studied the genetic diversity of SARS-CoV-2 strains detected in the territories of participating countries. The Russian Federation has provided financial support for research, including the supply of consumables and test kits.

10. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the diversity of existing approaches to vaccine development. The Russian Federation has become the first country in the world to register coronavirus vaccines and currently possesses five effective and safe drugs developed by our scientists using 3 different platforms. Russia is an only country in the world which transfers vaccine production technology.

11. As of November 2021 Russian-made vaccines have been registered in 71 countries. We signed 27 agreements to transfer vaccine production technology for Sputnik V and/or Sputnik Light with manufacturing sites in countries such as Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Vietnam, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Serbia, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Iran, China and South Korea.

12. The Russian Federation has developed and registered the world's first COVID-19 vaccine for animals.

13. Despite the pandemic, the Russian Federation continued to develop cooperation in other areas of infectious disease control, primarily with countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Africa, and Southeast Asia. We assisted in implementing the International Health Regulations by providing methodological and logistic support, in improving preparedness and response to epidemics as well as in providing technical equipment for laboratory services, ensuring biosafety and sanitary protection of territories, increasing research capacity in order to improve monitoring and prediction of infectious diseases, maintain sanitary and epidemiological well-being in emergency situations using mobile anti-epidemic units.

14. Among many specific programmes carried out by the Russian Federation in 2020-2021, we can highlight the following:

- supporting staff training in countering the spread of plague in Central and Eastern Asia, including joint expeditions and large-scale international exercises;
- combating resistance to antimicrobial drugs to strengthen the regional capacity of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in addressing antimicrobial resistance;
- donating equipment for mobile specialized anti-epidemic units of Rospotrebnadzor;
- supporting the fight against HIV and other infectious diseases in order to train highly qualified personnel from Eastern Europe, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia to prevent, research and control HIV/AIDS;
- assisting the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in building scientific, human, and laboratory capacities to address threats of infectious diseases and to ensure hygienic surveillance;

- maintaining scientific and technical cooperation with the Republic of Guinea which resulted in improving high-accuracy test kits for detecting various pathogens, establishing a network for diagnosing the new coronavirus infection SARS-CoV-2, training of about 1000 Guinean specialists;
- providing advisory, methodological, scientific, and logistic support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in combating the outbreak of Ebola virus disease and other infections.

15. The Russian Federation has established reference laboratories for foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza and Newcastle disease, collaborating centres for diagnosis and control of animal diseases as well as on food safety for Eastern Europe, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia. They serve as Reference Centres of the World Organization for Animal Health and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

16. Total funding for assistance programmes allocated by the Government of the Russian Federation for cooperation in the fight against infectious diseases, excluding emergency assistance for COVID-19, was 3.2 billion rubles and 48 million US dollars in 2018-2021.

17. Over the last 5 years, the Russian Federation has transferred 21 mobile laboratories to 9 states, which are successfully being used today, including in the fight against COVID-19. We provided training for more than 2000 specialists in the field of biosafety, prevention and diagnosis of infections, organised 5 international exercises aimed at responding to dangerous infections. The pandemic has confirmed the relevance of mobile laboratories in countering biological threats and prospects for creating an effective tool such as medical and biological units in the BWC format. For 2021-2022 WHO together with Rospotrebnadzor and the Robert Koch Institute are planning a comprehensive set of exercises to respond to sanitary and epidemiological emergencies, including field exercises with the use of mobile laboratories.

18. As part of cooperation programmes for studying natural plague foci and taking anti-epidemic measures, partner countries have received Russian laboratories, desinsection equipment and test kits.

19. As part of the project to increase the capacity of Eastern Europe, Transcaucasia, and Central Asia in addressing HIV/AIDS, Russia has delivered to recipient countries 63 sets of laboratory equipment, more than 500 thousand Russian diagnostic kits, Russian-made vaccines, 9 mobile medical and preventive modules 'Diagnostika' ('Diagnostics'), equipment and reagents, tens of millions of rubles worth, for diagnostic laboratories.

20. Given the shortage of face-to-face expert discussions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia continued the tradition of hosting an international conference in Sochi to discuss topical BWC issues. The third conference was held under the patronage of the Russian President and took place on June 24-25, 2021. It brought together more than 300 delegates from 30 countries, international and non-governmental organizations (UN, WHO, OIE, SCO, EAEU, CIS, CSTO), as well as the expert community.
