

---

third session  
Geneva, 27 November-8 December 1995

#### **FRIEND OF THE CHAIR ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING AND TRANSPARENCY MEASURES**

This paper is without prejudice to the positions of delegations on the issues under consideration in the Ad Hoc Group and does not imply agreement on the scope or content of the paper.

These potential confidence building and transparency measures would be voluntary and non-mandatory, and they could be included, as appropriate, into a legally binding instrument.

#### Multilateral Information Sharing

1. Sharing of information on issues relating to materials and activities of potential relevance to and in harmony with the BWC and the Protocol.
2. Sharing of information
  - 2.1 Between States Parties (with the assistance of the BWC organization).
  - 2.2 Between the organization and international organizations.
  - 2.3 The organization is to collect information from non-governmental organizations and programmes/ initiatives.
3. Areas which could be covered
  - 3.1 Surveillance of disease outbreaks.
    - 3.1.1 Reporting of disease outbreaks.
    - 3.1.2 Reporting of unusual disease outbreaks.
  - 3.2 Information on pharmaceutical and vaccine production, good manufacturing practices.
  - 3.3 Information technology applications for consultation and training.
    - 3.3.1 Transfer and exchange of information concerning research programmes in biosciences.
    - 3.3.2 "Virtual" attendance at scientific conferences and consultation in relevant areas.

3.3.3 Consultation in completing CBM requirements and reporting obligations.

3.3.4 Biosafety capabilities and procedures.

3.4 Information related to obligations under the BWC, e.g. information that may be related to the production, development, stockpiling or means of delivery of pathogens and toxins for hostile purposes.

4. Possible forms of information sharing

4.1 Between States Parties (organization as "hub").

4.1.1 Creation of network, as appropriate, to report on unusual outbreaks of disease (via secure World Wide Web page access)

4.1.2 World Wide Web and video conferencing connectivity/network to support information sharing (vaccines, GMP, etc.), consultation and training.

4.2 Between the organization and international organizations.

4.2.1 Information sharing with WHO, FAO, OIA on relevant disease outbreaks.

4.3 Between the organization and non-governmental organizations and programmes/initiatives.

4.3.1 Information sharing with PROMED, NEED on relevant disease outbreaks.