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DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Discussion Paper by South Africa

The following definitions of certain terms are proposed. Further definitions will also be required.

1. Biological defence programme

Activities related to protection against the use of microbial or other biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes which are as follows:

- i. Research and development, testing, production, evaluation and implementation of methods of prophylaxis, diagnosis, treatment and epidemiological studies of infectious diseases or toxicoses that can be caused by agents perceived to be used for hostile purposes.
- ii. Research and development, testing and evaluation of methods of physical protection and related equipment.
- iii.... Research and development, testing and evaluation of techniques and equipment for detection, identification and isolation of such agents or toxins.
- iv. Research and development, testing and evaluation of isolation and decontamination of sources and areas contaminated by such agents or toxins.

2. Military related biodefence programme

Biodefence programme aimed specifically at the defence of military personnel and animals.

3. Work with listed biological agents and toxins

“Work with” include the following activities:

aerobiology;

genetic modification;

studying the virulence and pathogenic properties of agents and toxins;

development of novel methods for detection, prophylaxis and treatment.

4. **Biosafety level 3 (BL.3)**

These practices, safety equipment and facilities are applicable to clinical diagnostics, teaching research or production facilities in which work is done with risk group III agents where the potential for infection is high. Personnel are required to have specific training in work with these agents and to be supervised by scientists experienced in the field of microbiology. Specially designed laboratories and precautions including the use of safety cabinets of class III. Hepafiltration of incoming as well as exhaust air and the application of negative pressure and airtight seals are prescribed, and access is strictly controlled.

5. **Genetic modification or manipulation**

“Genetic modification” means any activity aimed directly at changing genetic material in order to enhance pathogenicity or virulence for humans, animals or plants.

6. **Biological defence facility**

Facility where a biological defence programme is being conducted.

7. **Diagnostic facility**

A facility which is to carry out biological operations only for the purpose of isolation, and identification of microorganisms and toxins for the purpose of diagnosing disease. This includes the production of the reagents such as antigens and antibodies which are related to the diagnosis.

8. **Military Medical Programme**

Special medical programme on protection from diseases or injury to ensure physical and psychological health of military personnel, including prophylaxis and treatment programmes on weapons injury (including biological weapons), military public health programmes under special conditions (such as heat, cold, altitude jungle, etc.), military programme against common infectious diseases, programme of medical services, etc.

9. **Vaccine**

Vaccines are biological products which, when introduced into the body, stimulate the defence mechanisms of the body to provide active immunity against specific infectious diseases and toxicoses.

10. **Facility**

“Facility” means any “site” or “unit”.

11. **Site**

“Site” means an area, structure or building containing one or more “units” with auxiliary and associated infrastructure.

12. **Unit**

“Unit” means the combination of those items of equipment necessary for the development, production (processing) and stockpiling of biologically active materials, or for biological defence programmes.
