

Sixth session  
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**Working paper submitted by the Friend of the Chair  
on Definitions**

The definitions of the following terms were discussed by or proposed to the Ad Hoc Group and may need further consideration in the context of specific measures. The appearance of any term on this list is without prejudice to whether that term has either an acceptable definition content or is acceptable for inclusion in any final legally binding instrument.

[1. Bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons

A type of weapon designed for mass destruction of human beings, animals or plants, the effects of which are based on the properties of biological agents and toxins.

The term "Bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons" shall be applied to the following:

- Biological agents and toxins (except when they are designed for purposes not prohibited by the Convention, provided that the types of agents and toxins and their quantities are appropriate for those purposes);
- Weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed for the use of biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.]<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>A view was expressed that any proposal to define Article I terms would have the effect of amending the Convention outside the legal provisions of Article XI, contrary to the mandate of the Group. Another view was expressed that defining those terms is indispensable for the purposes of a verification mechanism and will not have the effect of amending the Convention.

[2. Biological agents (microbiological and other biological agents, bacteriological (biological) means, bacteriological (biological) agents)

Microorganisms, their genetically modified forms and other biological agents designed to destroy human beings, animals or plants.]

3. Biological defence facility

Facility which works in [one or more of the following areas of] a biological defence programme [/defence programme against biological weapons] [as one of its principal and/or permanent roles:

research, development, testing, production and evaluation]

4. Biological defence programme [/Defence programme against biological weapons]

[Research, development, production, testing and evaluation] programme designed to detect and assess the impact of any use of microbial or other biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict, and/[or] to prevent, reduce and neutralize the impact of biological and toxin weapons on humans, animals or plants.

5. Biosafety Level 3

Biosafety level 3 comprises the safety practices, building designs and equipment used in research, development, testing or diagnostic work in laboratory activities involving microbial or other biological agents, or toxins that pose a high risk of infection or intoxication.

[Biosafety level 3] characteristics [could] [should] include buildings sealable for decontamination, with a ventilation system that establishes a directional airflow from the access space into the laboratory room, double door entry into the room, sealable windows, the exhaust air from safety cabinets that pass through high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters and run

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Ibid.

off water disinfected. Equipment used inside [could] [should] include biosafety cabinets and specialised autoclaves. Access controlled, the two person rule whereby no individual ever works alone in the laboratory applicable, biohazard warning signs displayed when work is in progress and, where applicable, protective laboratory clothing, worn inside.

#### 6. Diagnostic Facility

Any facility which tests samples for the purpose of diagnosis of human, animal and plant diseases by means of detection, isolation and identification of microbial or other biological agents or toxins, as well as by serological techniques.

A diagnostic facility may also carry out the production and preparation of reagents for the above tests, and the development of diagnostic techniques.

#### 7. [Facility

A combination of physical structures, equipment, personnel and principal associated support infrastructure whether under construction, operational or non-operational for the development, production, testing, processing, stockpiling, otherwise acquiring or retaining microbial or other biological agents or toxins.]

#### 8. Genetic modifications

Genetic modification involves a [directed] process of arranging and manipulating nucleic acids of an organism to give it the capability to produce novel molecules or to add to it new characteristics.

It may include alterations in the genetic material of organisms in performing new functions like enhancement or reduction in pathogenicity and/or virulence; resistance to biotic or abiotic stress; change in antigenicity, [enhancement of stability in environment] and ease in cultivation. [For some measures] [There may be, however, for some measures a need to exclude classical genetic techniques, natural processes, applications involving somatic hybridoma cells, and some in vivo techniques.] [For other measures] [There may be a need to cover all techniques of changing the genetic structure of a biological agent.]

#### [9. Hostile purposes

The use of bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons or biological agents by a State (States) to destroy human beings, animals or plants in a State (States) which is (are) not engaged in a military conflict with the former State (States) with a view to inflicting military, economic or moral damage.]

10. Military medical programme

Medical programme to monitor, maintain and/or restore the physical, mental and social health, including detection, diagnosis, prophylaxis and treatment of infectious diseases and intoxications [that occur naturally] of serving and/or retired military personnel and their dependents, [as well as civilians] other than in the context of defence against the use of microbial or other biological agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

[11. Military related biodefence programme [/Military related defence programme against biological weapons]

Biological defence programme [/defence programme against biological weapons] carried out by the military.]

[12. Primary containment in production

Primary containment in production comprises the safety practices and equipment design features used in production activities involving microbial or other biological agents or toxins where there is a need to prevent incidental release into the environment. Organisms [could] [are] [shall] be handled in a system which physically separates the process from the environment (closed system) with seals so as to prevent release of organisms from the system, exhaust gases from the system treated so as to prevent release and effluent treated before final discharge. Sample collection, addition of material to the system and transfer of viable organisms to another closed system, performed so as to prevent release. This system could be located within a controlled area.]

13. Production capability

Expertise and capability to produce microbial or other biological agents or toxins, whatever their origin or method of production.

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Ibid.

[14. Purposes not prohibited by the Convention

Prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes.]

15. Site

A geographically defined location or area having an identifiable boundary that contains [or has contained (in a timeframe to be specified)] one or more facilities.

[16. Toxins

Toxic by-products of microorganisms, natural poisons of animal or plant origin, whatever their method of production, designed to destroy human beings, animals or plants.]

17. Vaccine

Preparations, including live-attenuated, killed or otherwise modified organisms or their components, and nucleic acids, which when introduced by any of multiple routes into an organism induces in it an active immune response and [protection in plants], for prophylactic, protective or [therapeutic] use.

8. Work with listed agents and toxins

Any manipulations with listed biological agents and toxins that cover for instance research development, production and diagnosis using listed biological agents and toxins including the study of properties of biological agents and toxins, detection and identification methods, genetic modification, aerobiology, prophylaxis and treatment methods [maintenance of culture collections] [registered culture collection].

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Ibid.

Ibid.