

Diplomatic Building Blocks

A training course in support of the 2008 BTWC Meetings of Experts and States Parties

Date: 18–19 March 2008

KEEPING GERMS WHERE THEY BELONG: BIOSECURITY AND BIOSAFETY

Questions for consideration during the plenary debate

1. How does your country define ‘biosafety’ and ‘biosecurity’?
2. Does your country have nationwide guidelines or regulations in place to ensure biosafety and biosecurity at laboratories? If yes, are they harmonized or sector-orientated?
3. What is the highest biosafety level facility in your country?
4. Does your country have nationwide guidelines or regulations in place to guarantee secure transfer and transportation of dangerous pathogens?
5. Who in your country is responsible for biosafety and biosecurity matters?
6. Are your biosafety national regulations and guidelines based upon any of the following:

World Health Organization (WHO)

- i. International Health Regulations
- ii. Laboratory Biosafety Manual (3rd ed., 2004)
- iii. Laboratory Biosecurity Guidance (2006)

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

- i. Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- ii. Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animal
- iii. Aquatic Animal Health Code
- iv. Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- i. International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology

Any other

- i. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- ii. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines
- iii. Etc.

7. Does your country have licensing regulations?
8. How do you view that the question of biosafety / biosecurity can be integrated into the BTWC regime?