
Project:	A Single Comprehensive Biological Incident Database
Disarmament Focus:	Weapons of Mass Destruction
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Proposed Project Timeframe:	2009-2010
Geographical Focus	Worldwide

BACKGROUND

On 8 September 2006 the United Nations adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288). As part of its Plan of Action and among several other measures in the biological area, the United Nations system was invited ‘to develop, together with Member States, a single comprehensive database on biological incidents, ensuring that it is complementary to the biocrimes database contemplated by the International Criminal Police Organization’.

A template of the Database has been developed by UNODA based on proposals by experts from interested Member States and in conjunction with case studies prepared from public domain information.

The database template is ready for pilot use by Member States as a web-based application as outlined in the Secretary General report (A/62/898).

Cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) has been established to coordinate work on the Bioincident and Biocrimes databases.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is to build capacity with respect to preparedness, threat and risk assessment and consequence management of biological incidents thereby strengthening Member States' capabilities to prevent and combat terrorism. The project would support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism strategy and strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard, promote information sharing and create a single comprehensive depository of information on biological incidents which currently does not exist.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

To support and promote the development of the Biological Incident Database, UNODA plans to organize meetings to inform States about the status of its work and expand the network of interested Member States. This aims to promote cooperation and capacity-

building with Member States and raise awareness with respect to the purpose and usefulness of the Biological Incident Database.

UNODA suggests that one meeting be held in 2009 in Geneva aimed at Member States from the European and Middle Eastern Regions and another meeting be organized in 2010 in New York for Member States from Africa, Latin America and Asia. This would create a network of government officials and experts from interested Member States who are involved in the work related to biological incidents at the national level.

IMPACT

- Increased awareness of the objective and usefulness of the biological incident database among Member States;
- Familiarization of national officials with the structure and content of the database;
- Building of capacity of Member States with respect to preparedness, risk assessment and consequence management of biological incidents;
- Intensified cooperation of Member States with UNODA on structure and content of the database;
- Reporting of relevant data to populate the database.

BENEFICIARIES

Member States
the United Nations System
other relevant International Organizations.

PARTNERS

Member States
International Organizations.

BUDGET ITEMS	AMOUNT IN US\$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert Meeting in Geneva Including travel, per diem and administration costs for 20 participants and 2 UNODA personnel 	100,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert Meeting in New York Including travel, per diem and administration costs for 20 participants and 2 UNODA personnel 	130,000
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED	230,000
<i>TOTAL SECURED FUNDING</i>	<i>--</i>
FUNDING GAP	<u>230,000</u>¹

¹ Disclaimer: The cost estimates are indicative only at this stage based on assumed travel itineraries of participants and their exact numbers