



**SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR  
THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF  
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

# **The History, Role and Importance of Article X of the BTWC**

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# INTRODUCTION

## ARTICLE X

- (1) The States Parties to this Convention undertake to **facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.** Parties to the Convention in a position to do so shall also **cooperate** in contributing individually or together with other States or international organizations to the **further development and application of scientific discoveries** in the field of bacteriology (biology) for prevention of disease, or for other peaceful purposes.
- (2) This Convention shall be implemented in a manner designed to **avoid hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties to the Convention or international cooperation** in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities, including the international exchange of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins and equipment for the processing, use or production of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.





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# HISTORY

## Why is Article X in the BTWC ?

- ❖ The BTWC was established due to security concerns
- ❖ However there were variations in the level of concern amongst countries
- ❖ Due to this there was a need for a developmental aspect to the Convention
- ❖ Hence the birth of Article X which encompasses the issues of development







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## ROLE

- ✓ To allow for the possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes
- ✓ To provide wider access to scientific and technological knowledge amongst States Parties
- ✓ To enhance existing institutional ways and means of ensuring multilateral cooperation
- ✓ To facilitate cooperation between international organisations and States Parties particularly related to public, human and animal health as well as disease control
- ✓ To develop frameworks for disease surveillance in humans, animals and plants





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# IMPORTANCE

- **This Article provides the balance in the Convention between control and development**
- **For countries that do not have security concerns this Article is vital for them**
- **Worldwide concern about new and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases**
- **The strengthening of Article X will further assist mechanisms for disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and the combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals and plants.**
- **Coordination would further allow scientific and technological developments that have the potential to significantly improve disease surveillance and emergency response to be shared amongst the developed and developing States Parties**





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# IMPLEMENTATION

- **NAM Countries view this Article as relating to dual-use activities and bio-defence capabilities**
- **Whereas the Western Group (European Union) view this Article as being more health related**
- **States Parties have differing views on the ways and means of implementing Article X and usually create a link to Article III**
- **However both Articles should be implemented independently thereby providing a harmonious balance**
- **Has Article X achieved its objectives ?**
- **In the last 5 years there has been a shift in cooperation amongst some countries**





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## CONCLUSION (1)

- The focus internationally is changing from state programmes to one of combating *Bio-terrorism*
- Nature will continue to be the greatest threat
- Global capacity to combat disease should be developed
- A sensible existence will become imperative consequently it will become important to institute a cooperative role amongst States Parties
- In order for this to be achieved, Article X needs to be implemented in a less politically-related manner





## CONCLUSION (2)

- ❑ **Should Article X continue to be used for political leverage, it will make the BTWC less and less pertinent**
- ❑ **NAM and the Western Group will need to develop closer co-operations, hence it will need to be a give and take process**
- ❑ **The focus of Article X should not only be related to bio-defence capabilities, non - proliferation and import/export control but should look at combating disease across the board**
- ❑ **There should be an overall widening of perceptions and a paradigm shift**





**QUESTIONS ???**



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