

between the various working groups, and a greater willingness to co-ordinate an EU position within the Australia Group may be necessary.

Co-operative Threat Reduction (CTR): If proliferation of BW is to be controlled it is crucially important to enhance the security of national pathogen and bio agent stockpiles around the world, especially those within the ageing Russian Biological Research and Production Centres (BRPCs). The G8 pledge to spend up to \$20 billion over the next ten years to help Russia and other nations dismantle their stockpiles of WMD, builds on earlier US CTR efforts. The EU should work to increase its support for CTR projects, particularly in the neglected BW sphere.

Protection of pathogens: Control measures on pathogens held by academic, research and public health institutions around the world are unacceptably varied. A proposed international 'Biosecurity Convention' would establish global rules governing access to dangerous pathogens and the physical protection of institutions authorised to work with them. The EU could lead by implementing such a convention within the Union.

Strand 3: Deterring BW Use

An effective deterrence posture may help ensure that even if proliferation occurs, the adversary will not use the capabilities amassed. Various members of the EU maintain their own national deterrence posture against BW use, but there is currently no EU or UN Resolution on this issue. The EU should push for an international commitment to counter and punish both states and individuals for BW use, or failing that, adopt a common position on the issue. In addition, the EU should take the first step towards international criminalization of individual BW use, by developing a regional EU Convention outlawing possession, manufacture, etc of BW.

Strand 4: Strengthening Civil Emergency Planning

Co-ordination of bio defences, at the local, national, regional and global levels needs to be improved. A European Commission programme launched in December 2001 has four main objectives: Establishing an EU wide co-ordination mechanism; Rapidly detecting and identifying agents and responding to attacks; Developing an inventory and guidelines for use of medicines and services; and Enhancing EU rules and guidelines and international links. A Task Force on Bio-terrorism has been set up to carry out the technical work necessary for implementation of the programme. Other EU initiatives might include: further harmonisation of bio defences with the EU Associate Countries and other OSCE states; further EU cooperation with the United States and Canada; the establishment of an EU agency in the area of communicable diseases; and the establishment of an EU scientific advisory group panel.

Towards A Three-Tier EU BW Control Regime

The policy measures discussed in this report are divided into three tiers:

Tier 1: (Immediate) Measures to enhance implementation of existing national measures and to deepen EU-wide cooperation:

- Enhancement of national implementation legislation within Member States;
- Establishment of an EU scientific advisory panel that meets regularly to inform Member States of developments in BW related sciences and technologies and to provide suitable recommendations and response measures;
- Establishment of a transparent and easily accessible CBM database for the EU member states and associate countries;
- EU provision of advice and aid to those nations incapable of completing CBMs;
- EU assistance to bring EU associate states into the Australia Group;