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REGIONAL WEST AFRICA PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC) 27-28 MARCH 2017 FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE





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Presentation on the work of the European Union (EU) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence (CoE) Risk Mitigation Initiative in Sierra Leone and how this workshop can complement the work of the centre.

Presentation by

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ORDER OF PRESENTATION



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1. Introduction
2. Conventions to prevent production of Weapons of Mass Destruction
3. Background of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative
4. Work of the EU (CBRN) Centres of Excellence initiative
5. Projects being implemented in the African Atlantic Façade Region by the EU(CBRN) centres of Excellence initiative.
6. CBRN CoE projects being implemented in Sierra Leone





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Order of Presentation Cont.



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7. Support of the EU (CBRN) CoE Risk Mitigation Initiative to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
8. How the workshop complements the work of the CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation Initiative.





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1. Introduction



CBRN
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CBRN means Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Agents/Materials.

Biological agents are used in Medical and Scientific Research

Chemical agents are used for industrial purposes, agricultural research, Medical or Pharmaceutical purposes or purposes related to protection against toxic chemicals.

Radiological and Nuclear materials are used in medicine, Agriculture, Water Resource exploitation and management, industries, mining etc.





Intro: cont.

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- We live with these materials each day and most of them are beneficial for the existence of mankind as they are used to address Socio economic needs.
- We cannot do without the beneficial uses of some of the CBRN agents/materials, but some could be used for malicious purposes that could cause significant harm to the general public and the environment.
- Some of the CBRN agents could be used for manufacture of Weapon of Mass Destruction



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INTRO: CONT.



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The use of these CBRN agents and materials can produce risk which will be difficult and expensive to mitigate.

The Risks could come from:

- Criminal activities
- Accidental activities
- or - Natural Origin

There is therefore an absolute need for global approach to monitor and regulate their uses to ensure that they are used without harm to people and the environment .

This workshop is part of the global approach to prevent the use of Biological agents for production of Weapons of Mass destruction.



The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is only one of the conventions to prevent the use of CBRN agents for weaponry.

Some Biological agents of Security Concerns(Security Sensitive Biological agents)are listed in the table below.

Tiers 1	Tiers 2
Abrin	African Swine Fever
Bacillus anthracis	Capripox virus
Botulinum toxin	Classical swine fever virus
Ebola Virus	Clostridium botulinum
Foot and Mouth disease virus	Francisella tularensis
High pathogenic influenza A virus, infecting humans (Including Avian Influenza H5N1)	Lumpy Skin disease virus
Marburgvirus	Peste de petits ruminant virus



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CONVENTIONS TO PREVENT PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



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- Besides the Biological weapon convention (BWC) there are a number of other conventions could prevent the use of other CBRN agents like Chemical, Nuclear and Radiological agents for production of weapon of mass destruction.

These include:

1. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapon (OPCW) or simply Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
2. The Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) relating to Nuclear Weapons.
3. Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the IAEA (P&I)





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CONVENTIONS TO PREVENT PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



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- 4. Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (**VC**)
- 5. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (**CPPNM**)
- 6. Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (**CPPNM-AM**)
- 7. Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (**ENC**)
- 8. Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency(**AC**)
- 9. Joint protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention (**JP**)
- 10. Convention on Nuclear Safety (**NS**)
- 11. INTERPOL CBRNE Terrorism Prevention Programme





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CONVENTIONS TO PREVENT PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION



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- 12. Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (**RADW**)
- 13. Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage
- 14. Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance By the IAEA(**RSA**)



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- The purpose of all the above conventions is to achieve effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapon of mass destruction.
- And to
- To Bring a complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, retention, transfer and use of weapons of mass destruction.

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3. BACKGROUND OF THE EUROPEAN UNION CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR (EU CBRN) RISK MITIGATION AND CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (COE) INITIATIVE

- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative (CBRN CoE)



- Is an initiative funded by the European Union and Jointly implemented by EU (European Union) UN United Nations



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Background cont.



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Objectives of CoE initiative is

- To create a framework for **cooperation** and **coordination** at national, regional and international level

To facilitate **cooperation** in order to **enhance CBRN policies** and **capabilities**





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Background of the EU CoE Initiative cont.



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- The EU Centers of Excellence on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation was launched in 2010 as an initiative of the European Union(EU)
- The initiative addresses the mitigation of and preparedness against risk related to CBRN materials and agents



Comprehensive approach
(Risks: criminal, accidental, natural)





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- It is jointly implemented by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN)





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Background Cont



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- The CBRN CoE network is currently in more than 40 countries worldwide grouped around 8 (Eight) Regional Secretariats located in the Following regions:
- African Atlantic Façade
- Central Asia (Under Development)
- East and Central Africa
- Gulf Cooperation Councils Countries
- Middle East
- North Africa (under Development)
- South East Asia
- South East Europe, South Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine





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Background Cont



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The CBRN CoE Regional Secretariats are hosted by one country in each region.

- The Regional Secretariat plays a major role in developing a high level of cooperation and coordination between countries in the various regions and within the overall CBRN CoE network.
- Contributes to local ownership and improved sustainability of the network.
- Assists information sharing.
- Facilitates National needs assessment.
- Facilitate the set-up of National Teams and Development of National Action Plans.





Background Cont.

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➤ Assist Countries in submission of project proposals and the coordination of CoE activities





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4. WORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR EU (CBRN) CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (COE)

- Objectives of the CoE Initiative include
 - To Create a framework for cooperation and coordination at national, regional and international level relating to CBRN risk mitigation.
 - To facilitate cooperation in order to enhance CBRN policies and capabilities .
- The CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation Initiative is a framework:





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WORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR EU (CBRN) CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (COE) Cont.



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- To Provide for cooperation and coordination between all levels of government and international partners to mitigate CBRN risks
- To offer a coherent and comprehensive approach covering:
 - Prevention
 - Preparedness
 - Response and recovery
 - Legal
 - Regulatory
 - Enforcement
 - Organisation
 - Technical issues
- Implement projects in partner countries to mitigate CBRN risks





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5. PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE EU CBRN INITIATIVE



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- More than 48 projects have been launched so far in partner countries in various regions in the world.
- The projects build capacities through:

- ✓ Awareness raising
- ✓ Specialised training, practical exercise, and e-learning courses
- ✓ Standards, guidelines, procedures, and best practices
- ✓ National plans, legislation, regulation, and legal frameworks
- ✓ International and regional networks
- ✓ Databases for information management
- ✓ Platforms for information sharing





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5. PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN AFRICA ATLANTIC FAÇADE REGION



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Projects include:

- Improved regional management of outbreaks in the CBRN Centres of Excellence Partner Countries of the African Atlantic Façade eg. Ebola Virus Disease, Yellow Fever etc.
- Establishment of a Mobile Laboratory for in-situ interventions on VHF outbreak sites in combination with CBRN Capacity Building in Western Africa (EUWAM-Lab)
- High Risk Chemical Facilities and Risk Mitigation in the African Atlantic Façade (AAF) Region.



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Projects Being Implemented In Africa Atlantic Façade Region cont.



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- Management of hazardous chemical and biological waste in the African Atlantic Façade region and Tunisia
- Strengthening the national CBRN legal framework and provision of specialized and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities





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6. CBRN CoE PROJECTS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN SIERRA LEONE.



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- Sierra Leone became a full member of the CBRN risk mitigation CoE Initiative in May 2016.
- Together with 11 (Eleven) other Partner Countries in the African Atlantic Façade (AAF) region Sierra Leone is participating in "Project 48".
- Project 48 "is Improved Regional Management of outbreaks in the CBRN Centres of Excellence Partner countries of the African Atlantic Façade." (AAF) Region.

Implementation of Project 48 will include 2(Two) Phases:-

○ Phase 1:

- The selection of national experts
- Review and comment on the deliverables of phase 1 (assessment mission reports, lessons learnt from Ebola outbreak report, etc.)





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Projects being implemented in S/L Cont.



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- Participate in the kick-off meeting in Abidjan and several follow up meetings of phase 1
 - Make recommendations and advice to the project team.
 - Not much was achieved during implementation of this phase due to late membership of the CBRN.
 - However, point of contact for the project was designated by the ministry of Health and Sanitation.
- Phase 2.
- To Coordinate the collection of information /data from the point of Contact (POC) for the implementation of activities (training needs, key data for feasibility study of a regional master etc.)





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Projects being implemented in S/L Cont.



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Project implementation will include:

- Participate in the development, preparation and implementation of training and simulation exercises;
- Review and comment on part of the reports prepared by the project team
- Preparing report on lessons learned from the recent Ebola outbreak,
- Identify existing resources and gaps in the African Atlantic Façade (AAF) region (legal, management, technology, workforce, etc.).
- Establish a network of regional experts and technical working groups,



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Projects being implemented in S/ L Cont.



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- Capacity building for a sustainable preparedness and efficient and timely response against future major biological outbreaks in the AAF region and neighboring countries at the national level and strong cooperation at the regional level (prevention, surveillance, preparedness, response and recovery capacities),
- Analysis of health and social behaviors to biological hazards and guidance for preparing the population (work on awareness tools with local partners),
- Feasibility study and business plan for setting up a regional master plan for biological outbreaks managers in the AAF region,





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Projects being implemented in S/ L Cont.



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- Conduct tailored training and regional exercises, develop guidelines and protocols,
- Excellence in the management of the project, including strong coordination with other CoE, other donors' projects and in close synergy with existing structures and experts.



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The overall objective of the project 48 is

- To improve the regional level of preparedness and response to outbreaks crisis (biological risk mitigation) in the CBRN CoE partner countries belonging to the African Atlantic Façade Region and neighbouring countries.





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8. SUPPORT OF THE EU (CBRN) CoE INITIATIVE TO BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)



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Enhancing national coordination to mitigate CBRN risks: National CBRN Team





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•Promoting regional and international coordination to strengthen CBRN risk mitigation



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Bénin



Cameroun



Côte d'Ivoire



Gabon



Libéria



Maroc



Mauritanie



Sénégal



Sierra
Leone



Togo





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•Need Assessment and National CBRN Action Plan



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Identify **gaps** in capabilities and **priority actions** to address gaps

Improve **international coordination** and **harmonization** among existing instruments and capacity-building initiatives





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•Development of the National CBRN Action Plan

- Strategic document identifying risks, capabilities, gaps and actions
- National authorities have ownership - Voluntary basis
- Covers strategic and technical aspects
- Coordination with international organizations
- Easy to monitor implementation of national actions



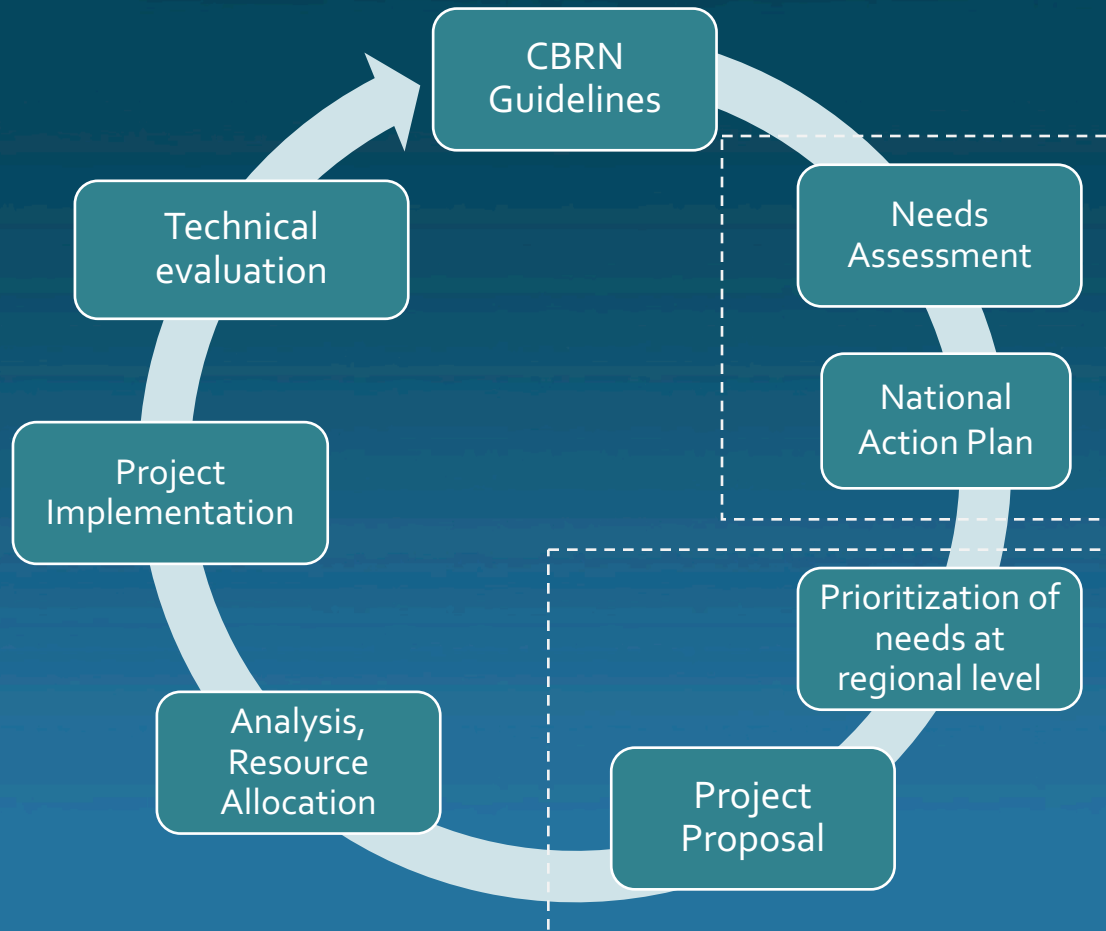


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•Strengthening Bio & CBRN capacities through projects based on the identified priorities





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9. HOW THE WORKSHOP COMPLEMENTS THE WORK OF THE CBRN COE RISK MITIGATION INITIATIVE.



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- Raise awareness of the existence and activities of the CBRN CoE risk mitigation initiative
- Awareness of the risk that could be associated with CBRN agents
- Promotes political support for CBRN CoE risk mitigation initiative
- Promotes cooperation at national and international levels in CBRN risk mitigation
- Provides for exchange of experience within policy makers
- Will enhance allocation of resources CBRN CoE initiative risk mitigation centres and activities to promote risk mitigation activities.



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9. HOW THE WORKSHOP COMPLEMENTS THE WORK OF THE CBRN COE RISK MITIGATION INITIATIVE Cont.



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- Promotes coordination with international organisations
- Provides opportunity for better assessment of the emerging threats and capacity for response
- Promote collaboration between regional policy makers to address CBRN risk mitigation initiatives
- Enhance regional approach to address CBRN risk mitigation activities
- Regional policy makers take ownership of their respective local CBRN risk mitigation centers and activities
- The workshop covered strategic and technical aspects that better explained the dangers of biological weapons



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9. HOW THE WORKSHOP COMPLEMENTS THE WORK OF THE CBRN COE RISK MITIGATION INITIATIVE Cont.



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- Made effort to identify risks, capabilities, gaps and action related to biological and other CBRN agents.
- Better understanding of policy makers to carefully consider /participate (sign and ratify) the various international instruments related to not only Biological agents but to all CBRN agents.
- Better understanding of the need to reinforce national CBRN capacity
- Will promote creation of CBRN response team for civil protection in member states
- Will enhance creation of regional CBRN training centers



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