

THE BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN
WEAPONS BILL, 2010

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No. 6 of 2010

Third Session Ninth Parliament Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

AN ACT to give effect to the Convention on the
Prohibition of the Development, Production and
Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and
Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

THE BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN
WEAPONS BILL, 2009

Explanatory Note

(These notes form no part of the Bill but are intended only to indicate its general purport)

The purpose of this Bill would be to give legal effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction in Trinidad and Tobago.

Clause 1 of the Bill would state the short title of the Bill.

Clause 2 of the Bill would provide for the Act to have effect even though inconsistent with the Constitution.

Clause 3 of the Bill would provide for the commencement of the Act.

Clause 4 of the Bill would provide for the Act to bind the State.

Clause 5 of the Bill would provide for the definition of particular terms used in the Bill.

Clause 6 of the Bill would provide for Article IV of the Convention to have the force of law in Trinidad and Tobago.

Clause 7 of the Bill would allow the Minister (“the Minister”) to whom responsibility for national security is assigned to designate any person or body to be the responsible Authority for the purposes of the Act.

Clause 8 of the Bill would provide for the functions of the Authority.

Clause 9 of the Bill would provide for the issue of a Search Warrant by a Magistrate to a police officer. A Warrant issued under this clause would allow the officer, among other things, to search any building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle or any other conveyance. Before the Warrant is issued, however, the officer must prove to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is in a building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle or any other conveyance, biological agent or toxin that is being used or stored for purposes inconsistent with the requirements of the Act or Regulations made thereunder.

Clause 10 would *inter alia* provide for the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, etc., of any—

(a) biological agent or toxin; or

(b) equipment or means of delivery designed to use any biological agent or toxin for hostile purposes.

This clause would also prohibit any person from transferring any biological agent or toxin to another person where he knows that the biological agent or toxin is likely to be used for harmful purposes.

Subclause (2) would further make it an offence for failing to take adequate measures to ensure the safety and security of any biological agents or toxins stored, kept or used in any building, place, vessel, etc.

Clause 11 of the Bill would allow the Minister, based on the recommendation of the Authority, to give directions for the immediate seizure and disposal of any biological agent or toxin where there are reasonable grounds for believing that such biological agent or toxin is being kept for any harmful or destructive purposes.

Clause 12 of the Bill would allow the Minister to make Regulations for carrying out or giving effect to the purposes of the Act.

Clause 13 would give the Minister to whom responsibility for foreign affairs is assigned the power to amend by Order the Schedule of the Act. Amendments to the Schedule of the Act would become necessary to ensure that any amendments made to the Convention or Protocol thereto are adequately reflected in the Convention contained in the Schedule of the Act.

BILL

AN ACT to give effect to the Convention on the
Prohibition of the Development, Production and
Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and
Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

[, 2010]

WHEREAS it is enacted *inter alia* by subsection (1) of ^{Preamble}
section 13 of the Constitution that an Act to which that
section applies may expressly declare that it shall have

effect even though inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution and, if any such Act does so declare, it shall have effect accordingly:

And whereas it is provided by subsection (2) of the said section 13 of the Constitution that an Act to which this section applies is one the Bill for which has been passed by both Houses of Parliament and at the final vote thereon in each House has been supported by the votes of not less than three-fifths of all the members of that House:

And whereas it is necessary and expedient that the provisions of this Act shall have effect though inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution:

And whereas Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction on July 19, 2007:

And whereas Trinidad and Tobago being a party to the Convention is required to give effect to it by enacting legislation:

Enactment	ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:
Short title	1. This Act may be cited as the Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons Act, 2010.
Act inconsistent with Constitution	2. This Act shall have effect even though inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution.
Commencement	3. This Act comes into operation on such day as is fixed by the President by Proclamation.
Act to bind the State	4. This Act binds the State.

5. In this Act—

Interpretation

“biological agent” means any microbial, infectious substance or virus capable of causing—

- (a) death, disease or other biological malfunction in a human, animal, plant or other living organism;
- (b) deterioration of food, water, equipment, supplies or other material of any kind; or
- (c) deleterious alteration of the environment;

“Convention” means the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction as specified in the Schedule, which was acceded to by Trinidad and Tobago on July 19, 2007;

“imprisonment for life” in relation to an offender means for the remainder of the natural life of the offender;

“means of delivery” means any apparatus, equipment, device or delivery system specifically designed to deliver or disseminate a biological agent or toxin or vector;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom responsibility for national security is assigned;

“toxin” means—

- (a) any poisonous substance produced by a living organism; or

(b) any poisonous isomer, homolog, or derivative of such substance,

whatever its origin or method of production;

“vector” means any living organism capable of carrying a bacteriological agent or toxin to a host.

Article IV to have the force of law

6. Article IV of the Convention shall have the force of law in Trinidad and Tobago.

Designation of the Authority

7. The Minister may by Order, designate any person or body to be the responsible Authority (hereinafter referred to as the “Authority”) for the purposes of this Act.

Functions of the Authority

8. The functions of the Authority shall be—

- (a) to advise the Minister on matters relevant to the making of regulations under the Act;
- (b) to advise on and monitor the implementation of regulations made under the Act;
- (c) to coordinate the activities of all agencies involved in the implementation and enforcement of the requirements under the Act or Regulations made thereunder; and
- (d) such other functions as are from time to time conferred on it by virtue of this Act or any other written law.

Search Warrant

9. A Magistrate who is satisfied, by proof upon oath, that there is reasonable ground for believing that there is in any building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle, or any other conveyance any biological agent or toxin, which is being stored or

utilized for purposes that are in contravention to this Act or regulation made thereunder, shall issue a warrant under his hand authorizing a police officer to search such building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle or any other conveyance and to—

- (a) take any sample thereof, and examine anything he reasonably believes is used or capable of being used for the manufacture or storage of any biological agent or toxin;
- (b) open and examine any receptacle or package that on reasonable grounds he believes contain any biological agents or toxins;
- (c) examine any book, document or other records electronic or otherwise that he reasonably believes is necessary to obtain any information on biological agents or toxins that are manufactured or stored;
- (d) use or cause to be used any computer or data processing system to examine any data contained in or available to any computer system used;
- (e) reproduce or cause to be reproduced any record from data contained in or available to any computer system used in the form of a printout or other intelligible output, and remove the printout or other output for examination or copy;
- (f) use or cause to be used any equipment at the building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle, or any other conveyance to make copies of any data or any record, book of account or other document obtained; and

- (g) seize and retain for such time as may be necessary any—
 - (i) equipment that is being used or is intended to be used for any purpose that would contravene any requirement of the Act or Regulations made thereunder;
 - (ii) biological agent or toxin which he reasonably believes is being manufactured or stored in contravention of this Act or Regulations made thereunder; or
 - (iii) weapon, equipment or means of delivery designed to use any biological agent or toxin for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

(2) A search warrant issued under subsection (1) may authorize any suitably qualified person named in the search warrant to accompany the police officer and assist him in taking any of those steps.

(3) The owner or person in charge of any building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle, or any other conveyance entered by a police officer pursuant to subsection (1) and every person found therein shall give the police officer and any other suitably qualified person named in the warrant all reasonable assistance that may be required to access any information reasonably required.

- (4) A person who—
 - (a) fails to comply with subsection (3);
 - (b) obstructs any suitably qualified person in carrying out his duties under this Act or Regulations made thereunder;
 - (c) knowingly makes any false or misleading statement, either verbally or in writing, to a police officer or any other suitably qualified

person engaged in carrying out his duties under this Act or Regulations made thereunder; or

- (d) removes, alters or interferes in any way with any biological agents or toxins seized or detained under this Act or Regulations made thereunder without the authority of a police officer or any other suitably qualified person,

commits an offence and shall on conviction on indictment, be liable to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and imprisonment for ten years.

(5) Any biological agent or toxin seized by a police officer or any other authorized person under this section may be kept or stored in the building in which they were seized or subject to the approval of the Minister, be removed to any other place or location.

10. (1) A person who—

Offences

- (a) develops, produces, stockpiles, acquires, or retains any biological agent or toxin in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes;
- (b) develops, produces, stockpiles, acquires, or retains any weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use any biological agent or toxin for hostile purposes or in armed conflict; or
- (c) transfers any biological agent or toxin to another person where he knows or has reason to believe that the biological agent or toxin is likely to be kept or used otherwise than for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes,

commits an offence and shall on conviction on indictment, be liable in the case of an individual, to imprisonment for life or in the case of a body corporate, to a fine of one million dollars.

(2) A person who fails to ensure that adequate measures are taken to ensure the safety and security of any biological agents or toxins stored, kept or used in any building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle, or any other conveyance, commits an offence and shall on conviction on indictment, be liable—

- (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and imprisonment for ten years; or
- (b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

(3) Where an offence is committed under this Act or Regulations made thereunder and is proved to have been done with the consent and connivance or attributable to any negligence on the part of any director, manager, corporate secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or any other person purporting to operate in such capacity, that person shall on conviction on indictment, be liable to a fine of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars and imprisonment for ten years.

(4) This section also applies to a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago who commits an offence under this Act while outside Trinidad and Tobago.

Disposal of biological
agent or toxin

11. (1) The Minister may, upon the recommendation of the Authority, give directions—

- (a) for the immediate seizure and disposal of any biological agent or toxin that is being kept in any building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle, or any other conveyance for any reason other than for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes; or
- (b) to the owner or occupier of any building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle, or any other conveyance in which

biological agent or toxin are being kept, for the immediate disposal of such biological agent or toxin where adequate measures are—

- (i) not being taken; and
- (ii) are unlikely to be taken,

to ensure the safety and security of such biological agent or toxin.

(2) The Minister may in giving directions under subsection (1)(b)—

- (a) specify the manner in which, and time that the biological agent or toxin must be disposed of; and
- (b) require the owner or occupier to produce the biological agent or toxin to a specified person.

12. (1) The Minister may make Regulations ^{Regulations} prescribing—

- (a) measures required to ensure the security of any biological agent or toxin manufactured, stored or used in any building, place, vessel, aircraft, carriage, box, motor vehicle, or any other conveyance; or
- (b) any matter that is required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed or is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to the purposes of this Act.

(2) Regulations made under this section shall be subject to negative resolution of Parliament.

13. Where an amendment to the Convention, ^{Amendment of} including any Protocol thereto, is accepted by Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister with responsibility for foreign affairs may by Order, amend the Schedule ^{Schedule} for the purpose of including therein such amendment.

SCHEDULE

(Section 5)

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION
AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN
WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**The States Parties to this Convention**

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, and convinced that the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and their elimination, through effective measures, will facilitate the achievement of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Recognizing the important significance of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on June 17, 1925, and conscious also of the contribution which the said Protocol has already made, and continues to make, to mitigating the horrors of war.

Reaffirming their adherence to the principles and objectives of that Protocol and calling upon all States to comply strictly with them.

Recalling that the General Assembly of the United Nations has repeatedly condemned all actions contrary to the principles and objectives of the Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925.

Desiring to contribute to the strengthening of confidence between peoples and the general improvement of the international atmosphere.

Desiring also to contribute to the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Convinced of the importance and urgency of eliminating from the arsenals of States, through effective measures, such dangerous weapons of mass destruction as those using chemical or bacteriological (biological) agents.

Recognizing that an agreement on the prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons represents a first possible step towards the achievement of agreement on effective measures also for the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, and determined to continue negotiations to that end.

Determined for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins being used as weapons.

Convinced that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of mankind and that no effort should be spared to minimize this risk.

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

Each State Party to this Convention undertakes never in any circumstances to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain—

- (a) biological agents, or toxins whatever their origin or method of production, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes; and
- (b) weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

ARTICLE II

1. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to destroy, or to divert to peaceful purposes, as soon as possible but not later than nine months after entry into force of the Convention, all agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I of the Convention, which are in its possession or under its jurisdiction or control.

2. In implementing the provisions of this Article all necessary safety precautions shall be observed to protect populations and the environment.

ARTICLE III

Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever, directly or indirectly, and not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce any State, group of States or international organizations to manufacture or otherwise acquire any of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery specified in Article I of this Convention.

ARTICLE IV

Each State Party to this Convention shall, in accordance with its constitutional processes, take any necessary measures to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I of the Convention, within the territory of such State, under its jurisdiction or under its control anywhere.

ARTICLE V

1. The States Parties to this Convention undertake to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective of, or in the application of the provisions of, the Convention.

2. Consultation and Cooperation pursuant to this Article may also be undertaken through appropriate international procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter.

ARTICLE VI

1. Any State Party to this convention which finds that any other State Party is acting in breach of obligations deriving from the provisions of the Convention may lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations. Such a complaint should include all possible evidence confirming its validity, as well as a request for its consideration by the Security Council.

2. Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to cooperate in carrying out any investigation which the Security Council may initiate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, on the basis of the complaint received by the Council.

3. The Security Council shall inform the States Parties to the Convention of the results of the investigation.

ARTICLE VII

Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to provide support or assistance, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to any Party to the Convention which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such Party has been exposed to danger as a result of violation of the Convention.

ARTICLE VIII

Nothing in this Convention shall be interpreted in any way as limiting or detracting from the obligations assumed by any State under the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on June 17, 1925.

ARTICLE IX

Each State Party to this Convention affirms the recognized objective of effective prohibition of chemical weapons and, to this end, undertakes to continue negotiations in good faith with a view to reaching early agreement on effective measures for the prohibition of their development, production and stockpiling and for their destruction, and on appropriate measures concerning equipment and means of delivery specifically designed for the production or use of chemical agents for weapons purposes.

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) 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.

ARTICLE XI

Any State Party may propose amendments to this Convention. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Convention and thereafter for each remaining State Party on the date of acceptance by it.

ARTICLE XII

Five years after the entry into force of this Convention, or earlier if it is requested by a majority of Parties to the Convention by submitting a proposal to this effect to the Depositary Governments, a conference of States Parties to the Convention shall be held at Geneva, Switzerland, to review the operation of the Convention, with a view to assuring that the purposes of the preamble and the provisions of the Convention, including the provisions concerning negotiations on chemical weapons, are being realized. Such review shall take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention.

ARTICLE XIII

1. This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

2 Each State Party to this Convention shall in exercising its national sovereignty have the right to withdraw from the Convention if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject matter of the Convention, have jeopardized the supreme interests of its country. It shall give notice of such withdrawal to all other States Parties to the Convention and to the United Nations Security Council three months in advance. Such notice shall include a statement of the extraordinary events it regards as having jeopardized its supreme interests.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that this Act is one the Bill for which has been passed by the House of Representatives and at the final vote thereon in the House has been supported by the votes of not less than three-fifths of all the members of the House, that is to say by the votes of _____ members of the House.

Clerk of the House

I confirm the above.

Speaker

Passed in the Senate this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Clerk of the Senate

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that this Act is one the Bill for which has been passed by the Senate and at the final vote thereon in the Senate has been supported by the votes of not less than three-fifths of all the members of the Senate, that is to say by the votes of _____ Senators.

Clerk of the Senate

I confirm the above.

President of the Senate

No. 6 of 2010

THIRD SESSION
NINTH PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BILL

AN ACT to give effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time
