WHO Constitution provides the mandate for WHO activities in the area of public health. The 2005 revision of the International Health Regulations ("IHR (2005)") constitutes WHO's legal framework for activities regarding prevention and control of the international spread of disease (including those from chemical and radio-nuclear sources, as well as biological). WHO's 2007 World Health Report, A safer future: global public health in the 21st century, focused on the interface of health and security, where the WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan emphasized the following points "Given today's universal vulnerability to [internationally significant health and security] threats, better security calls for global solidarity... as the determinant and consequences of health emergencies have become broader, so has the range of players with a stake in the security agenda...the successful implementation of the IHR(2005) serves the interests of politicians and business leaders as well as the health, trade and tourism sectors.” WHO is undertaking a number of activities to strengthen global and national public health preparedness and response to all public health events with serious international implications, regardless of their origin or source. WHO is committed to a programme of national capacity building based on "Core Competencies" for detection and response to public health risks and events which may constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), in order for countries to meet the requirements of the IHR (2005).

Additionally, World Health Assembly Resolutions WHA 54.14 and WHA 55.16 mandate WHO to play a key part in the international response to accidental or deliberate use of biological and chemical agents or radionuclear materials that affect health, and to support member states in prioritizing surveillance, networking and responses in this area; and request WHO to adopt mechanisms for supporting state and strengthening the international response accordingly.

The following are descriptions of activities carried out within the cluster of Health Security and Environment, which have a direct or indirect impact on preparedness and response to deliberately caused events and are relevant to above mentioned request for information:

**Activity: Enhancing international disease surveillance of communicable disease, chemical, radiological and foodborne incidents.**
At the international level, a 24/7 system of alert and response operations detects international public health events, and performs risk assessments on the public health implications of these events. These systems are consistently tested, both through exercises and during real events, in order to optimize operational performance and the effectiveness of collaboration with international partners.

**Activity: Enhancing international capacity for response to communicable disease, outbreaks, chemical, radiological and foodborne incidents.**
WHO mobilizes international networks of technical partners to assist countries to respond to public health events, a system activated on request from countries. Among these specialized networks are GOARN (the Global Outbreak Alert and Response
Network); ChemiNet, for alert and response to chemical events; INFOSAN (International Food Safety Authorities Network), for alert and response involving food-related events; REMPAN (Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network) and BioDoseNet (Global Network for Biodosimetry), for radio-nuclear emergencies.

**Activity: Readiness for deliberate events**
WHO is establishing procedures to guide public health responses to potential deliberate events, and for addressing the interface between health and security. WHO has developed and refined internal standard operating procedures and indicators to respond to intentionally-caused outbreaks and emergencies.

**Activity: Collaboration with the UN Office for disarmament Affairs on the update of the UNSG mechanism for investigating the alleged use of chemical, biological and toxin weapons**
The WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, agreed to provide technical support to updating the roster of experts used by the mechanism, providing equipment and support to the training for experts, and updating and refining the relevant technical manuals and procedures. A Memorandum of Understanding between the WHO and the ODA was signed in order to formalize a long-standing support to this mechanism.

**Activity: Observers at the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) meetings**
The WHO is a regular observer and occasional contributor on health issues at BWTC conference meetings.

**Activity: Establishment of standards and training on laboratory biosafety and biosecurity**
Standards and training are being developed and applied in WHO regions to encourage safe use, transport and storage of biological materials, minimizing the risk of their diversion for malicious use. In addition, WHO is working in collaboration with the EU and other partners to strengthen biorisk management and laboratory practices.

**Activity: Responsible life sciences research for global health security**
WHO is also exploring the public health issues surrounding the potential risks of accidentally or deliberately misusing life sciences research. This outreach is being done through awareness raising workshops, technical and scientific meetings and a self-assessment tool on responsible life sciences research.

**Activity: Management of the stockpiles of smallpox samples**
In accordance with a series of WHA resolutions, WHO has established standard operating procedures for the dispatch of stockpiled smallpox vaccine if needed. WHO continues to conduct regular visits to the remaining two repositories of live variola virus to examine biosafety arrangements, and has directed, in collaboration with the international community, the research agenda for the smallpox virus. In addition, WHO has developed strategies for mobilization of stockpiled smallpox vaccine.

**Activity: National capacity building managing biological, chemical and radiological events**
In accordance with the IHR (2005), WHO has assisted countries to develop readiness to manage the public health consequences of incident involving chemical, biological and radiological agents. In addition, a manual for the public health management of chemical incidents has been developed. These guidelines are supported by a large number of technical documents and information material intended to assist Member States in strengthening all public health capacities related to incidents and emergencies.

Developing technical reference tools to be used for building expertise, education and training is also an important component of the organization's work. Notably, WHO contributed to the multiagency product Triage, Monitoring and Treatment Handbook: a handbook for the management of the public in the event of malevolent use of radiation.

Guidelines for establishing and strengthening prevention and response systems for the deliberate contamination of food have also been made available to Member States.

Activity: Targeted collaboration with external partners
Regular collaboration exist (with for example the UN, FAO, OIE, IASC, EC and IAEA) and ad hoc technical interactions also occur with organizations such as OPCW, G8, the Global Health Security Action Group (GHSAG), UNEP, OCHA, IMO, Europol, NATO and Interpol, on relevant issues.

Activity: Liaison with the UNSC Resolution 1540
WHO submits reports annually to the UNSC Resolution 1540 Committee on activities undertaken relevant to the preventing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors.

Activity: Liaison with the United Nation’s Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)
The WHO is a member of the UN CTITF Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks and reports regularly on public health activities relevant to the implementation of the strategy.