# **The Biological Weapons Convention**

### **Daniel Feakes**

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Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) Young Women and Next Generation Initiative in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Fourth Outreach Event Working at International Organizations: Tips and Insights for the Next Generation 31 March 2022

# **Biological Weapons Convention**

prohibits development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, retention or transfer of biological weapons

- Opened for signature on 10 April 1972
- EiF on 26 March 1975
- First multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of WMD
- Comprehensive scope
- Non-discriminatory in nature
- Unlimited duration
- Open to any state











"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 minimise this risk"

### Article I Never under any circumstances to acquire or retain biological weapons Article II To destroy or divert to peaceful purposes biological weapons and associated resources prior to joining Article III Not to transfer, or in any way assist, encourage or induce anyone else to acquire or retain biological weapons Article IV To take any national measures necessary to implement the provisions of the BWC domestically To consult bilaterally and multilaterally to solve any problems with the Article V implementation of the BWC To request the UN Security Council to investigate alleged breaches of the BWC and Article VI to comply with its subsequent decisions To assist States which have been exposed to a danger as a result of a violation of Article VII the BWC To do all of the above in a way that encourages the peaceful uses of biological Article X science and technology

## What are the main functions of the BWC?

- Provides an **unequivocal norm** against biological weapons
- Sole <u>multilateral forum for dialogue</u> concerning all issues pertaining to BWs in a holistic manner
- Facilitates <u>assistance and cooperation</u> at the bi- and multilateral level and helps building capacity
- Supports the promotion of peaceful uses of biological S&T and facilitates assistance and cooperation to develop capacity
- Offers a mechanism for <u>consultation and cooperation</u> in solving any problems
- Builds transparency through Confidence-Building Measures

Weapon Category	Nuclear		Biological	Chemical
Treaty (status)	NPT	СТВТ	BWC	CWC
States Parties to the Treaty	191	168	183	193
Verification			X	
Organisation	IAEA	СТВТО		OPCW
Budget	€ 371.8m	\$ 70.9m € 49.8m	\$1.8m	€ 69.7m
Personnel (approx.)	2,560	275	3	462







# How does the BWC work?

- No international verification regime
- No separate international organization
- States Parties obliged to translate the commitments in the Convention into effective national action
- Intersessional work programmes (all decisions by consensus)
- Highest Organ: Review Conference
- Three regional groups:
  - Eastern European Group (Russia)
  - NAM (Azerbaijan)
  - Western Group (Australia)
- Three Depositaries









# **Implementation Support Unit**

"A small, efficient and highly-focused unit, the ISU will coordinate, concentrate and magnify the efforts of the States Parties. It will harness resources, forge connections, develop networks and identify opportunities."

- First institutional presence for the BWC
- Officially operational in August 2007
- Housed in the Geneva Branch of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs
- Funded by assessed contributions from all BWC States Parties
- Three full-time staff
- Augmented by voluntary contributions from States Parties and the European Union

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### Hajra SANA

Associate Programme Officer Political, Peace and Humanitarian Network

Duty Station: New York, United States

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Go to the UN JPO Programme website

#### Requirements

- an advanced university degree
- a minimum of two years of relevant work experience
- strong command of one of the

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# NTI and Partners Launch 6th Annual Next Generation for Biosecurity Competition









2022 NEXT GENERATION FOR BIOSECURITY COMPETITION

**OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS!** 





### IFBA Global Mentorship Program 2020-2021 List of Full Participants

### IFBA Global Mentorship Program 2019-2020 List of Full Participants

The IFBA Global Mentorship Program is a worldwide initiative to support and sustain the international biosafety and biosecurity community. Mentor and Mentee pairs are matched based on region and professional discipline to encourage locally relevant professional guidance in any and all IFBA Professional Certification domains, including:

- Biorisk Management
- Biosecurity
- Biological Waste Management
- Biocontainment Facility Design, Operations, and Maintenance
- Biosafety Cabinet Selection, Installation, and Safe Use

Mentor and Mentee pairs are brought together to discuss regional and global issues and opportunities pertaining to biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management. Mentees will receive guidance in obtaining IFBA Professional Certifications and other career developing skills, and mentors may put their experience towards renewing their existing IFBA Professional Certifications!



# **2022 GRAND JAMBOREE**

October 20 - 23, 2022 Paris Expo - Porte de Versailles



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# Welcome to iGEM 2022!

On this website, you will find information about participating in the iGEM Competition, including team requirements, rules and

# **Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Fellowship**

### About the ELBI Fellowship

The Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity (ELBI) Fellowship inspires and connects the next generation of biosecurity leaders and innovators.

Launched in 2012, ELBI is a highly competitive, part-time program that provides an opportunity for talented graduate students and professionals to deepen their expertise, expand their network, and build their leadership skills through a series of events coordinated by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

The fellowship boasts almost 200 alumni with backgrounds in government, national security, private industry, science, law, public health, medicine, global health, journalism, the social sciences, and academia.

As an ELBI fellow, you will:

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September 10, 2021

### HSP Concludes Biosecurity Champions Fellowship 2021

This month, HSP's Biosecurity Champions Fellowship virtual lecture series concluded in Pakistan. Facilitated by HSP's Technical Advisor Samreen Sarwar, the Biosecurity Champions Fellowship is a training program designed to build a network of life and medical science professionals poised to become biosecurity leaders in Pakistan. The Fellowship aims to increase the capacity of Pakistani scientists and academics in fields relevant to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). For the 2021 Fellowship, five fellows were selected from five provinces (Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit and Balochistan) of Pakistan.

The fellowship consisted of nine weekly modules, which covered topics ranging from the history of biological weapons and warfare to dual use research of concern and bridging institutional gaps between biosecurity and law enforcement agencies. Each module consisted of a two-hour session with pre-session reading assignments. To evaluate comprehension, participants took a quiz every three weeks on previously covered topics.



Mobilizing youth to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention in Kenya

24 March 2022 | 16h00 - 18h00 EAT Online event



### Biosecurity Diplomacy Workshop for Young Scientists from the Global South

*Third edition* | 2022



### **30 participants**

early-career life scientists, local leaders in biosafety and biosecurity

society representatives



### 15 countries

from the Global South in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, MENA and Latin America

### 17 women & 13 men

selected over 100 applicants by an international jury



# 6 interactive online sessions

over a period of 1 month and focusing on BWC articles, S&T issues, and networking





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The Youth 4 Biosecurity Initiative is sponsored by the European Union















### PROMOTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION UNDER THE BWC

#### **VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT**

under the Meeting of Experts 2 Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention

2 September | 13:15 - 14:45 CEST #BWCMX



### An online publication from the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy

The Next Wave of Biosecurity Experts: Young Scientists Need a Better Path into Global Diplomacy

**SCIENCE & DIPLOMACY** 

issa Alexandar", Mayra Americensi", Christopper Isaac, Gatnete Esse, Ste er, Samantha Diffich, Leonard Prousis - 02/22/2022

IN 2022, THERE IS NO LONGER A NEED TO CONVINCE young people that their lives could be serverely disrupted by a large-scale biological event. Now is the time to create new paths for young scientists to enter into biosecurity science diplomacy.

Creating opportunities for life scientists and other domain experts to participate in diplomacy is crucial, as biotechnology and synthetic biology are advancing so rapidly<sup>1</sup> that their risks may not be apparent to all stakeholders. Youth perspectives are particularly needed to create innovative solutions and generate long-term

engagement.

Over the past decade, global biosecurity organizations have created programs that enable young scientists to explore science diplomacy



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS
Tassa Also rate in a Study and Security Program Officer with the IEEE
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Cubinelis Exercises and program officer on the Otobal Diological Policy and Programs team at the Nacioar Thread initiative, where she works on projects to strangthen global health necurity and biosecurity including NTT's Global Health Becarty Index



THE YOUTH DECLARATION FOR BIOSECURITY MOBILIZING YOUTH TO STRENGTHEN THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

> Virtual side event BWC 2020 Meeting of States Parties

> > Monday, 22 November 2021 13:15 – 14:45 CET



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### **Youth Declaration for Biosecurity**



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