



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Advancements in Science and Technology: Benefits and Risks for the Biological Weapons Convention

11-12 October 2022

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, India

11 October 2022 (Day 1)

Time (IST)*	Topic	Speakers
8:30 – 9:00	Registration and distribution of conference material Overview of Day 1 and Logistics Information	
9:00 – 9:30	Opening Remarks	H.E. Izumi Nakamitsu (Video Message) UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs H.E. Amb. Leonardo Bencini (Video Message) President-Designate of the Ninth Review Conference of the BWC Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament EU Representative

		<p>Delegation of the European Union to India.</p> <p>MEA representative Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India</p> <p>H.E. Amb. Sujan Chinoy Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Feakes Chief BWC Implementation Support Unit United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs</p>
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9:30 – 9:45	Group Picture	
	Break	

Session 1: Biorisk Surveillance, Verification and Mitigation

Chair: James Diggans

9:45 – 10:15	Disinformation: Impact on Science and Technology Development	<p>Lela Bakanidze Key Expert, OSA to EU CBRN Centers of Excellence Initiative Regional Secretariat for Central Asia</p>
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10:15 - 10:35	Lessons learned from Oversight of DNA Synthesis	<p>Sarah Carter Principal, Science Policy Consulting LLC</p>
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<p>10:35 – 10:45</p>	<p>The Risks and Benefits of Emerging Scientific and Technological Developments in Biorisk Management</p>	<p>Mrinmayee Bhushan Founder- Director, Mindfarm Novatech Private Limited</p>
<p>10:45 – 10:55</p>	<p>Break</p>	
<p>Chair: Javier Antonio Rodriguez</p>		
<p>10:55 – 11:15</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Lane Warmbroad Biological and Chemical Weapons Policy Analyst, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, US</p>
<p>11:15 – 11:35</p>	<p>Understanding Biosecurity for Effective Disease Surveillance</p>	<p>Bobadoye Ayodotun Chief Operating Officer, Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET)</p>
<p>11:35 - 11:55</p>	<p>Securing Gene Synthesis Technologies: Mitigating Risks and Enabling Innovation</p>	<p>Amanda Kobokovich Senior Analyst, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security</p>
<p>11:55 – 12:15</p>	<p>Emerging Biosecurity landscapes: comprehension to containment</p>	<p>Atanu Basu Scientist G, ICMR National Institute of Virology, Pune</p>

12:15 – 13:45	Lunch	
Session 2: Agriculture and Biosecurity		
Chair: Jaime M. Yassif		
13:45 – 14:15	Biosafety Challenges to Food and Agriculture Security in the Caribbean	Neela Badrie Professor, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
14:15 – 14:45	Emerging Agricultural Biotechnologies Challenge the BWC: the Case of Viral-induced Plant Genome Editing	Felix Moronta-Barrios Senior Programme Assistant, Regulatory Science Group. International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
14:45 – 15:05	Curbing Health-Related Issues in the Agricultural Sector through Biosecurity	Judith Okolo Assistant Chief Scientific Officer, National Biotechnology Development Agency, Nigeria
15:05 – 15:25	Animal Diseases, Agriculture, and Biosecurity	Lauren C. Richardson Director, Science and Technology at Merrick & Company
15:25 – 15:45	Break	

Session 3: Neuroscience, Neurotechnology and Biosecurity		
Chair: Beyza Unal		
15:45 – 16:15	Opportunities and Risks of Neurotechnologies and Brain-Machine Interfacing	Ricardo Chavarriaga Senior Researcher, Zürich University of Applied Sciences
16:15 – 16:45	Towards Full Human Augmentation: Dangers and Perspectives	Renaud Jolivet Professor, Maastricht Centre for Systems Biology, Maastricht University
16:45 – 17:15	Neurosecurity and the Dual-Use Implications of Neurotechnology	Marcello Ienca Professor, Bioethics, ZTH Zurich
17:15 – 17:35	Neuroscience and the Solution of Dual-Use	Aakansha Bhawsar Former Scientist, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi
17:35 – 17:50	General Discussion and Feedback	
	Day 1 Closing Remarks	
18:30 onwards	Reception	

12 October 2022 (Day 2)

Time (IST)*	Topic	Speakers
8:45 – 9:00	Overview and Logistics for Day 2	
Session 4: Synthetic Biology and Biosecurity		
Chair: Sarah R. Carter		
9:00 – 9:30	Developing Legal and Policy Frameworks in Biosecurity-a Moving Target	<p style="text-align: center;">Nancy Connell</p> <p>Senior Scientist, Board on Life Sciences, US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine</p>
9:30 – 9:50	Synthetic Viruses: Opportunities and Risks	<p style="text-align: center;">Yoke Fun Chan</p> <p>Professor of Virology, University of Malaya, Malaysia</p>
9:50 – 10:10	DNA-Synthesis, Genome Engineering and their Risks and Opportunities	<p style="text-align: center;">Maximilian Brackmann</p> <p>CBRN Arms Control Expert, Spiez Laboratory</p>
10:10 – 10:30	Addressing Emerging Risks through Regional Networks	<p style="text-align: center;">Geoffrey Otim</p> <p>Founder and CEO, Synbio Africa</p>
10:30 – 10:50	Dual Uses of Bioinformational Engineering	<p style="text-align: center;">Thom A Dixon</p>

		PhD scholar, Macquarie University, Australia
10:50 – 11:10	Break	
Session 5: Artificial Intelligence and Cyber-biosecurity		
Chair: Felix Moronta-Barrios		
11:10 – 11:40	Predicting Risk from DNA Constructs: Capabilities and Needs	James Diggans Director, Data Science and Biosecurity, Twist Bioscience
11:40 – 12:00	Existing and Emerging Cyber Risks to Biosecurity	Beyza Unal Head, Science and Technology Unit, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, New York
12:00 – 12:20	Design against Crime: A Biological Security Strategy to Safeguard Science and Society	Mariam Elgabry Founder and CEO, Bronic Ltd.
12:20 – 12:40	Technbellem: AI and the Trajectory of Bio (and Cyber) Warfare	Janine Medina (Nina Alli) Executive Director, Biohacking Village

12:40 – 14:00	Lunch	
Session 6: Youth Engagement and Gender Considerations in BWC (Posters)		
14:00 – 15:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Involving Young Scientists in the Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC): Some Key Points</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Brice Boris Legba University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Managing Biothreats; Mitigating Spill overs of Zoonotic Viruses: Experience from Uganda</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Doreen BIRUNGI Africa University One Health Network, Uganda</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Youth Declaration for Biosecurity: Mobilizing Youth to Strengthen the BWC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fatima Aziz Aga Khan University, Pakistan</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">My work as a part of Youth Empowerment under the BWC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hitesh Kumar Bhattarai Kathmandu University, Nepal</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Contribution of Woman Scientists and Biosafety professionals from Biotechnology Industry in Strengthening the BWC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Imane BELKOURATI MCI Santé Animale, Morocco</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Youth Involvement and Gender Consideration in the Implementation of the Philippine Health Laboratory System (PHLS)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Leodymar Jorduella Department of Health, Philippines</p>

		and Teddy Rowell Mondres National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan
	RNA seq data reveals response signatures for early detection and surveillance of malaria and COVID-19 in febrile patients	NZUNGIZE Lambert Founder, SynBio Rwanda
	Need for Accelerating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Non-Proliferation Treaty decision making process	Rahuldeep Singh HIV Sentinel Surveillance Program, PGIMER, Chandigarh, India
	Starting Them Early: A Preliminary Summer Internship Program on Biosafety and Biosecurity in the Philippines for Senior High School Students	Rodel Jonathan S. Vitor II University of Tokyo, Japan
	TBC	Shrestha Rath Centre for Effective Altruism, UK

Session 7: Science-Policy Interface

Chair: James Revill

15:30 – 16:00	Global Guidance Framework for the Responsible Use of the Life Sciences: Mitigating Biorisk and Governing Dual-use Research	Soatiana C. Rajatonirina Technical Officer, Science Division, World Health Organization
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16:00 – 16:50	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel discussion</p> <p>Science and Technology in Biosecurity: Funding, Communication and Capacity Development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lijun Shang Professor, London Metropolitan University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jaime M. Yassif Vice President, Global Biological Policy and Program NTI: Bio</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Andrew Nerlinger Executive Director, Global Health Security Fund, and Co-Founder Pandemic Tech</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jonathan Forman Science and Technology Advisor, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory,</p>
16:50 – 17:00	Break	
Chair: M M Ramchandra		
17:00 – 17:50	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel discussion</p> <p>Biosecurity: Developing Legal and Policy Frameworks</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amber Murch Principal Biological Advisor for Non-Proliferation, Defence S&T Laboratory</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hubert K. FOY Director & Senior Research Scientist, African Center for Science and International Security</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leifan Wang Center for Biosafety Research and Strategy, Tianjin University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Javier Antonio Rodriguez</p>

		Director, Initiative for Global Security, Argentina
<i>17:50 – 18:15</i>	General Discussion and Feedback Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks	
<i>19:00 onwards</i>	Dinner	

* Time is in Indian Standard time (IST).