

Editorial

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The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) have been active for decades. The BWC, the older of the two Conventions, will hold its Ninth Review Conference from 28 November to 16 December 2022. The member-countries are likely to discuss the Convention's achievements and challenges during this time-frame. Interestingly, the Conference of the State Parties of the CWC is also meeting from 28 November 2022 to 2 December 2, 2022. The Conference of State Parties meets annually, while the Review Conference of both the treaties takes place every five years.

However, organising the two conventions comes with its own challenges. While the Russia-Ukraine conflict has brought to the fore some of the persisting challenges of biological and chemical weapons, for many years, a few member-countries have been levelling allegations against others of violating and undermining the treaties.

Mrinmayee Bhushan, in her article, has underlined the controversy surrounding the COVID-19. She argues that the history of biological weapons has witnessed numerous such issues. Rajiv Nayan discusses the nature of the threat of chemical weapons in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He finds that chemical weapons have not been of much use and have not gone beyond being a propaganda tool in the ongoing hybrid war. Anshu Joshi maintains that a comprehensive global defence against biological attacks is the need of the hour.

Siddhant Bajpai, in his article, points out that the current international order, which is in a state of flux because of the rise of China, an intense backlash against globalisation and institutionalism, and the COVID-19 pandemic, required an arrangement like BWC to ensure a rules-based order. Krutika Patil has focused on the convergence of biological and cyber warfare. She maintains that it is essential to envision the convergence points for biological and cyber warfare for a post-pandemic world order.

This issue of the *CBW Magazine* also comprises other features like Chemical-Biological News. With our readers' feedback, we wish to publish issues in the future that focuses on a subject of particular concern. Kindly address contributions and feedback to: cbwmagazineeditor@gmail.com.