The Biological Weapons Convention

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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
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Biological Weapons Convention

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

• Opened for signature on 10 April 1972
• EiT 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

183 States Parties
4 Signatories
10 States not party
“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
Article V  To consult bilaterally and multilaterally to solve any problems with the implementation of the BWC
Article VI  To request the UN Security Council to investigate alleged breaches of the BWC and to comply with its subsequent decisions
Article VII  To assist States which have been exposed to a danger as a result of a violation of the BWC
Article X  To do all of the above in a way that encourages the peaceful uses of biological science and technology
What are the main functions of the BWC?

- Provides an **unequivocal norm** against biological weapons
- Sole **multilateral forum for dialogue** concerning all issues pertaining to BWs in a holistic manner
- Facilitates **assistance and cooperation** 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 **consultation and cooperation** in solving any problems
- Builds **transparency** through Confidence-Building Measures
## Resources to facilitate treaty implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weapon Category</th>
<th>Nuclear</th>
<th>Biological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treaty (status)</td>
<td>NPT</td>
<td>CTBT</td>
<td>BWC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States Parties to the Treaty</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verification</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✖️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>IAEA</td>
<td>CTBTO</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>€ 371.8m</td>
<td>$ 70.9m</td>
<td>$1.8m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel (approx.)</td>
<td>2,560</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Career Opportunities

UN internships

UN Young Professional Programme
UN Junior Professional Officer Programme
UN Volunteer Programme
UNRCPD Internships

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

UNLIREC Internships

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

IAEA Internships

International Atomic Energy Agency
The JPO Programme has given me the opportunity to work for women’s empowerment through advocacy interventions.

Hajra SANA
Associate Programme Officer
Political, Peace and Humanitarian Network
Duty Station: New York, United States

Junior Professional Officer Programme

If you are a skilled graduate with energy, enthusiasm and an eagerness to join the United Nations, the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme (formerly known as Associate Experts Programme) may be the right route for you.

The main goal of the JPO Programme is to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to offer young professionals an opportunity to get hands-on international cooperation at the United Nations.

Join the United Nations Talent Pool
Leda
LETRA

Associate Radio Producer, Public Information and Conference Management Network

Duty Station:
New York, United States

The Young Professionals Programme launched my career as an international civil servant.

What is the Young Professionals Programme?
Welcome to the United Nations. It's your world.

Disarmament Education
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Scroll down
NTI and Partners Launch 6th Annual Next Generation for Biosecurity Competition
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!
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:
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 Samwar, 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

Save the Date

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

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

31 experts and speakers
from the BWC community including science diplomats, researchers, youth and civil society representatives

The Youth for Biosecurity Initiative is sponsored by the European Union
The Youth for Biosecurity Network
80 young biosecurity experts
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
@BWCMeet
Youth Declaration for Biosecurity

Arabic (to be provided soon)
Chinese (to be provided soon)
English
French (to be provided soon)
Spanish (to be provided soon)
Russian (to be provided soon)