Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee

Topic: The Question of Addressing the Threat of Bioterrorism through Enhanced Global Biosecurity Cooperation

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Introduction

Terrorism refers to the act of pursuing political or ideological goals by using violence against certain communities or individuals. It can take many forms, including bombings, armed assaults, hostage-takings, and so on. Yet, terrors are not always limited to physical attacks as they are typically easy to be caught and cause huge financial costs. Consequently, many terrorist groups have shifted their focus toward more convenient and cost-effective methods, such as bioterrorism.

The use of biological weapons for the sake of terror is a rising global concern for several reasons. Modern science enables many states, organisations, and even individuals around the world to manipulate viruses and bacteria in ways that were previously impossible. Furthermore, rapid advances in biotechnology, such as DNA editing tools and AI-powered gene synthesis, have lowered the technical barriers, making it easier for many agents to create lethal pathogens.

Despite being easy to produce, biological weapons are one of the most hazardous weapons that humanity has ever created. Their high lethality, infectiousness, and difficulty of detection cause chronic illnesses or nerve damage to those individuals who are exposed to them, leading to long-term health consequences. Yet many countries are still using biological weapons during warfare, which pose a significant threat to global society. In addition, terrorists actively utilise harmful chemicals to spread fear and destabilise regions. Therefore, tackling biological weapons and the aftermath of their potential use is considered extremely complicated. However, it is unfortunately apparent that conventional international laws are failing to address this issue with sufficient force, placing international society in desperate need of measures to address the problems.

Definition of Key Terms

Terrorism

Although the legal definition of terrorism differs from countries, the UNODC (United Nations Office of Drug and Crimes) defines it as criminal acts against civilians that is committed with intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or even an individual, or to intimidate a population and compel a government or an international system.

Terrorist

A terrorist is an agent who conducts terrorism to achieve their goals, whether it is political or religious. The exact number of terrorists on the globe remains unknown. Still, it is estimated that tens of thousands, if not potentially millions of people, have been engaging in terrorism.

Bioterrorism

According to INTERPOL, bioterrorism is defined as the deliberate use of germs or biological substances to harm or kill people, animals, or plants. In other words, it involves intentionally spreading a disease or toxin to cause illness. Bioterrorism attacks are intended to create fear and disruption for political or ideological goals.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity refers to policies and actions taken to protect people and animals from the intentional misuse of biological materials. In simple terms, it means keeping hazardous substances or toxins or germs out of the hands of those who might use them as weapons. Biosecurity can include laws and measures that prevent potential biological attacks.

Biosafety

Biosafety is defined as practices and technologies designed to prevent accidental release or exposure to pathogens. Biosafety focuses on handling germs safely in laboratories or medical settings so that a dangerous microbe does not escape and infect people unintentionally. This is a different notion from biosecurity in that biosecurity guards against deliberate misuse, while biosafety is more focused on preventing accidental exposure or escape. For example, biosafety measures include wearing protective equipment in high-level labs and sterilising waste to kill microbes before disposal.

Biological weapons

According to the WHO (World Health Organization), biological weapons, also known as BW, are weapons made of living organisms such as bacteria or viruses, or the toxins they produce. Biological weapons are created and deliberately released to spread disease and cause death to humans, animals, or plants. Examples include weaponised anthrax spores or the smallpox virus. Weapons made from organisms can be more unpredictable than chemical or conventional weapons because they easily multiply and spread beyond the initial target.

Global Health Security

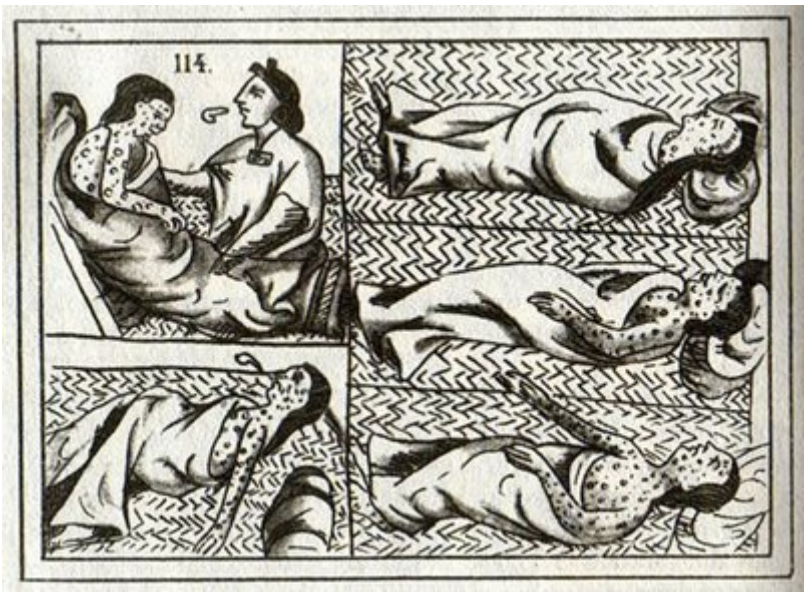
According to the WHO (World Health Organization), Global Health Security is the strength of global public health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to disease threats wherever they occur. To put it simply, a country with good global health security has strong disease surveillance, modern labs, and trained doctors who can stop outbreaks quickly. Improving global health security helps protect every country since rapid disease spread is always critical.

Background Information

Historical background

The earliest recorded case of biological warfare dates back to the 6th century B.C.E., when Assyrian armies poisoned enemy wells with the fungus that causes ergot in rye. Additionally, there remain several records showing people from the early era, including the Greeks, Romans, Mongolians, and so on, using biological weapons during warfare.

However, it was not until the 18th century that bioterrorism, as the world refers to it today, first emerged. This was because the aforementioned usages of biological weapons were limited to primitive attacks with little scientific understanding. During that time, bioterrorism methods mainly spread across Europe. For example, in the 18th and 19th centuries, there were rumours of both British and American forces giving smallpox-contaminated blankets to Native Americans or enemy troops, causing tens of thousands of casualties in the New World.



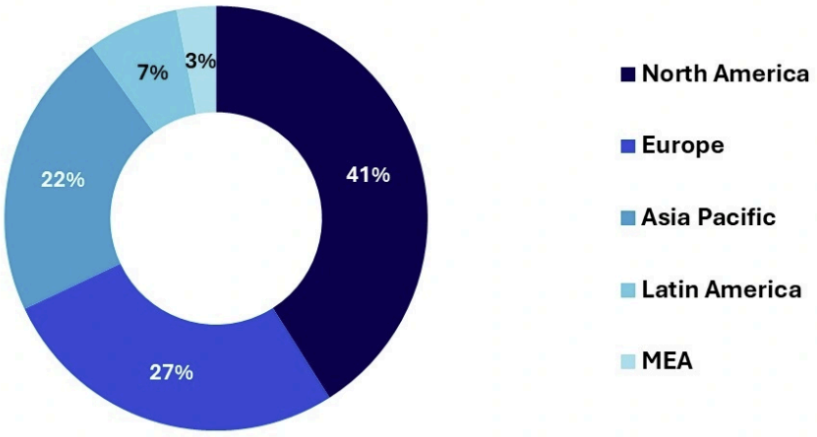
Investigating the Smallpox Blanket Controversy (American Society for Microbiology, 2023)

In the 20th century, biological weapons were used during the two World Wars and several conflicts. During World War II, the Japanese Unit 731 conducted lethal experiments and weaponised diseases, which is one of the worst known examples of state-run biological warfare. Besides this,

many totalitarian regimes that existed during WW2 (e.g., Nazi Germany, Italy, etc) actively took advantage of bioterrorism.

In more recent decades, modern bioterrorism incidents have often involved non-state actors. In 1984, followers of a cult in Oregon, USA, intentionally contaminated salad bars with Salmonella bacteria. This attack sickened 751 people and required a large public health response. It was a relatively small-scale outbreak with no casualties reported, yet it showed how easily a motivated group could infect many people with common bacteria, since the production of large quantities of bacteria is inexpensive and involves simple equipment and skills.

As the 21st century began and science advanced, biotechnology started to expand as well. There were countless incidents of biological weapons being used, not only on the national army forces, but on civilians as well. Terrorist groups such as ISIS started conducting terror attacks with lethal biological weapons. Accordingly, several regions that are frequently targeted by terrorists, including Europe and North America, particularly the United States, have been extremely vulnerable to bioterrorism.



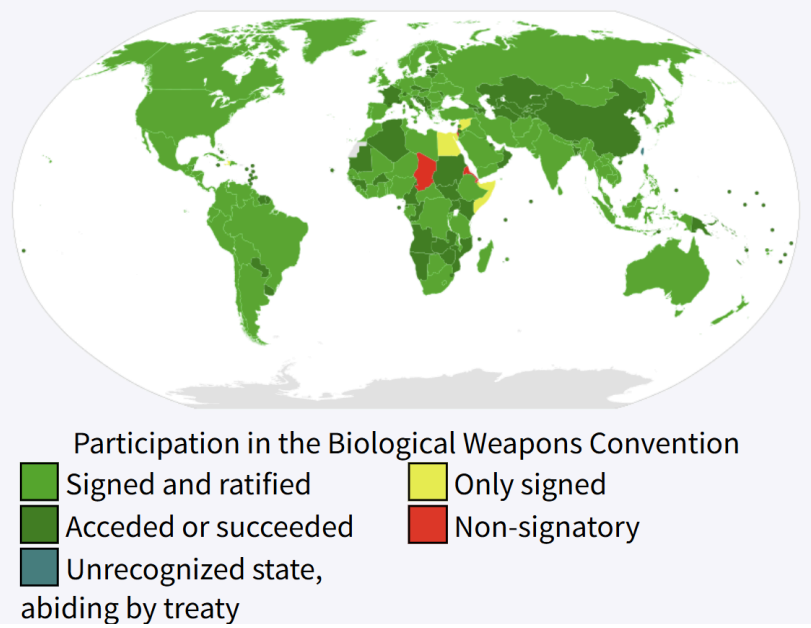
Biodefense market size per region (Precedence Research, 2023)

In the 2010s, countries recognised that both natural pandemics and intentional biological attacks are major security issues. The 2003 SARS outbreak in Asia and the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic showed how an emerging disease could spread globally by air travel, killing or sickening thousands. Although SARS and H1N1 were natural, they prompted better monitoring and cooperation. Meanwhile, concerns over Iraq's secret biological weapons programme, which was uncovered after

the Gulf War, and the Soviet Union's hidden Cold War bioweapons labs highlighted that even state actors might still develop banned weapons covertly.

International agreements and conventions

Over the past decades, the world has built a framework of laws and conventions to combat biological threats. The cornerstone was the BWC (Biological Weapons Convention) of 1975. The BWC is a legally binding treaty signed by 187 member states that bans the development, production, stockpiling, and use of biological weapons in any situation. By signing this convention, nearly all state parties have agreed to destroy any stockpiled weapons and refrain from helping other parties develop them.

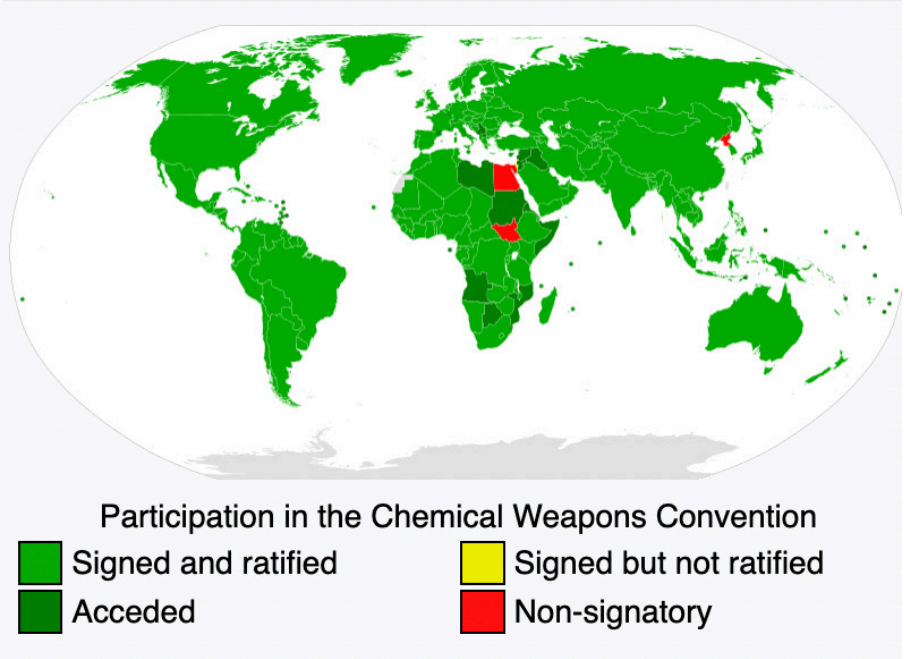


Participation in the Biological Weapons Convention (Wikipedia, 2025)

Despite its detailed and pragmatic solutions, the BWC has major limits. States must bring concerns and requests regarding the BWC to the United Nations Security Council for adequate measures to be taken, but the Council has rarely taken action under the BWC due to the repetitive usage of veto power from five permanent members (the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the French Republic). Furthermore, from its inception, the treaty has lacked a verification mechanism to ensure compliance, leaving room for doubt about whether states are fulfilling their obligations. Rapid advances in

biotechnology and pathogen engineering have further exposed these weaknesses, as the treaty struggled to keep pace with scientific developments. As a result, there were some instances where major signatories of the BWC were suspected of showing non-compliance with the convention (e.g., the Russian Federation and Iraq under Saddam Hussein's regime). Many countries, including the United States of America, have come to publicly express concerns about the compliance of countries like Russia, Iran, China, and the DPRK with the BWC.

To complement the weakness of the BWC, the CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention) was adopted in 1992 and enforced starting in 1997, fully prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons and mandating the elimination of all existing stockpiles. The OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) oversees CWC implementation through rigorous inspections, declarations review, and scientific monitoring.



When Treaties Work: The Chemical Weapons Convention (Global Dispatches, 2025)

Although the primary purpose of the convention is to prevent chemical threats, its verification mechanism is considered to have high relevance to bioterrorism. For instance, toxins like ricin and saxitoxin fall under the CWC's purview and are subject to prohibition, serving as a convergence point for chemical and biological threat governance. Moreover, the OPCW provides international norms for safe and ethical scientific conduct, fostering responsible practices that help counter the misuse of both chemical and biological weapons.

Another notable framework is United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, 28 April 2004 (S/RES/1540), which was adopted in 2004. This resolution requires all member states to adopt laws and measures to stop the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and to prevent non-state actors, or terrorists, from acquiring them. In 2022, the Security Council extended the Resolution 1540 Committee's mandate for another ten years, emphasising the ongoing need to prevent bioterrorism.

On the health side, the WHO (World Health Organization) has led international efforts in disease control. In 2005, member states of the WHO agreed to pass the revised IHR (International Health Regulations). The IHR legally binds 196 member states to develop core public health capacities and to report unusual disease outbreaks to the WHO promptly. The IHR aims to ensure that any outbreak of serious illness, both natural and man-made, is detected and contained before it spreads internationally. After the 2014 Ebola epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses in global virus regulation limits, many governments and experts have pushed for an even stronger global framework to improve preparedness and data sharing.

Besides these conventions, there exist numerous other treaties that are either directly or indirectly related to countering bioterrorism. However, weaknesses and obstacles remain. Many countries still have limited laboratory and public health capacity. A nation with weak health surveillance might miss an intentional small-scale release or natural outbreak, allowing it to spread. WHO has noted that after decades, most countries have not yet achieved the full IHR core capacities, primarily due to limited funding. Likewise, the BWC lacks strong verification methods. There is no routine inspection to ensure that research labs or military facilities are not secretly making weapons.

Trust between nations is also a huge problem. In fact, countries sometimes hesitate to share pathogen samples or data quickly during virus outbreaks, as seen in disputes during COVID-19 over the virus spreading. Finally, funding is a big issue since international biosecurity programmes are under-resourced. This demonstrates that policy, legal, and financial measures at the global level are not keeping up with new gene editing and synthetic biology.

State-organised biological terrorism and non-state-organised biological terrorism

Biological terrorism is a type of terror by which both state and non-state agents can actively engage. While both types are very hazardous and cause severe damage, there are major differences between them.

State-organised biological terrorism is carried out by governments or their agencies, accompanied by large budgets, dedicated research centres, and military grade facilities to pursue strategic objectives such as deterrence, warfare, or political coercion. In contrast, non-state actors, terrorist groups, or lone individuals usually operate with limited funding and primitive labs, aiming to induce fear and influence policy. Their low-tech methods include contaminating food, mail, or water supplies. Although these methods might seem rudimentary and basic, damage from them is not negligible at all. Below is the chart that summarises the differences between State-organised and Non-state-organised bioterrorism.

Aspect	State-Organised bioterrorism	Non-State-Organised bioterrorism
Agent	Governments or their agencies	Terrorist groups, or lone actors
Resource	Large budgets, dedicated research centres	Limited funding, labs, or improvised setups
Motivation	Strategic or military objectives	Political ideology, religious goals, etc.
Accountability	Can infringe on state sovereignty, and is hard to verify	Direct criminal liability; more likely to be exposed
Limits of Prevention	Treaties lack strong inspections, and states can hide programmes	Difficult to sustain large-scale production

Advanced science and bioterrorism

The field of synthetic biology has rapidly expanded due to advancements in DNA sequencing and synthesis, which allow for the precise editing and construction of genetic material. While this allows medical production with great ease, it also opens doors to potential misuse. In terms of bioterrorism, synthetic biology can be leveraged to engineer pathogens that are more contagious and lethal than their naturally occurring counterparts. These synthetic organisms can be designed to resist

current drugs and vaccines, making them powerful tools to create a disease outbreak that is difficult to control. Moreover, synthesising toxins or crafting new pathogenic viruses through synthetic genomics can cause extensive harm without relying on natural materials, overcoming the traditional barrier for weaponisation.

Gene editing is also a major problem. Gene editing is a technology that enables scientists to modify and splice certain parts of DNA. Recent advancements in gene editing have prompted applications in fields such as medicine and agriculture. However, these breakthroughs also reignite concerns about the potential misuse of gene editing tools to create weaponised pathogens. Among them, Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) technology is widely used among terrorists who conduct bioterrorism. CRISPR enables scientists to modify DNA more efficiently and accurately, raising fears that terrorists or nations with moderate capabilities could develop deadlier and more easily spreadable pathogens. While the technology holds promise for addressing genetic mutations, disease resistance in crops, and cancer treatments, the worry is that gene editing may make biological weapons more potent than ever before.

Last but not least, the rapid progress of AI (Artificial Intelligence) holds extensive implications across various fields, including its potential application in developing sophisticated biological weapons. Ironically, the wide accessibility provided by AI is the biggest issue. In many past cases, terrorists often failed to conduct bioterrorism due to their lack of knowledge and experience in handling biological substances. However, the rapid progress of artificial intelligence has extensive implications in various fields, including its potential application in developing sophisticated biological weapons. Since they are advanced large language models, AI can offer insights into pandemic pathogens, suggesting ways to acquire, modify, and distribute them. These models may assist in planning and executing biological attacks by guiding the identification of lethal agents, budget considerations, and distribution methods like aerosol devices.

Possible solutions

Strengthening and modernising existing international frameworks

As it is mentioned above, although there exist many conventions and frameworks that are established to counter bioterrorism, their effectiveness remains limited due to weak enforcement mechanisms and a lack of universal participation. Thus, the world should focus on upgrading existing treaties and agreements to close loopholes. This process may involve conducting regular meetings or leveraging the authority of the United Nations to implement necessary changes.

Revised global cooperation methods should include transparent information sharing, biosafety regulation with clear standards, and the establishment of a global early warning system for detecting unusual outbreaks that could indicate bioterrorism. Without strong and adaptive biosecurity frameworks, the global society will remain vulnerable to both state-organised and non-state-organised biological threats.

Securing pathogen production and regulating biotechnology

Numerous technological advances, such as AI-powered tools and gene editing technologies, make it way easier for criminals to manipulate biological weapons than ever before. Therefore, adequate measures should be taken to keep dangerous biological materials out of the wrong hands. This includes tight security at laboratories that hold deadly germs. Countries can require that any institute possessing harmful agents report their inventories and implement stringent safeguards.

Internationally, limiting the illicit import and export can decrease the accessibility of equipment or DNA that could help produce dangerous biological weapons. Furthermore, an international verification mechanism could be established to monitor illegal pathogen production.

Enhancing global cooperation

In order to counter bioterrorism, global cooperation is indispensable. There should be financial and technical support from More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) to Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). Such supports may be used for modernising outdated laboratories that are likely to be used for biological weapons production. Moreover, LEDCs can call

for dedicated support from regional international bodies (e.g., the ASEAN and the EU) or even the United Nations.

However, global cooperation methods are not limited to simple funding. Another practical mechanism is joint training and exercises. For example, police, health officials, and military from different countries could practise responding to a simulated biological attack together, learning to coordinate roles. Organisations like INTERPOL already run programmes to train law enforcement in biothreat detection.

Major parties involved

WHO (World Health Organization)

The United Nations' health agency, the World Health Organization, is dedicated to leading disease surveillance, outbreak response, and setting global health rules. The WHO has issued the guidelines for global biosecurity measures, verified virus outbreaks, and coordinated vaccine distribution. The committee has also been holding numerous discussions on biological weapon regulation.

United States of America

The United States of America is acknowledged for its high dedication to leading global biosecurity cooperation. For instance, agencies like the CDC, FBI, and NIH run many programmes to prevent bioterrorism. The USA helped start the GHSA (Global Health Security Agenda) in 2014 and fund capacity-building around the world. The nation is also renowned for conducting various research and studies on vaccine and pathogen detection. However, the US is sometimes blamed for overreacting with excessive caution to biological substance production. For example, in 2024, the US accused Russia of using biological weapons in the Russo-Ukrainian war, which turned out to be unsubstantiated.

European Union

European states are known to show a desirable commitment to international biosecurity norms. There are many strong research centres and public health facilities across the region, which makes it possible for states to prevent bioterrorism. The European Union funds cross-border health security projects and research, and conducts exercises on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) defence. Europe also contributes to the implementation of the BWC and engages in export control of harmful substances.

French Republic

France has actively engaged in enhancing global biosecurity efforts by taking advantage of its advanced science. The nation established the Biotox-Piratox programme, which aims to upgrade

existing facilities for biodefence, such as decontamination centres or laboratories, to address threats of biological and chemical terror. The French government is also known to spend its budget on vaccine production. For example, the government committed nearly €150 million to procure ciprofloxacin for antimicrobial defence. Furthermore, as a member state of the BWC and other various bioterrorism-related treaties, France cooperates with the EU and other partners.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom is equipped with an advanced biosecurity infrastructure and national strategies for biodefence mechanisms. In 2023, the government issued a nationwide framework named the BSS (Biological Security Strategy) to build resilience to biological threats by 2030 and position the nation as a global leader in responsible biotech innovation. Additionally, the government allocated £1 billion to establish a National Biosecurity Centre and integrated it with the old laboratories to detect animal diseases and threats from hostile actors by 2033. By showing these commitments, the UK hopes to lead global bioterrorism regulation and is considered to be open to collaboration and dialogue.

People's Republic of China

As a member of BWC, China claims that the nation supports the convention and that it upholds biosecurity standards. Currently, China is one of the countries with the most biotech and lab infrastructure. Although these laboratories enable the Chinese government to conduct productive scientific research, several concerns regarding their misuse have been raised. For example, China faces criticism over its lack of transparency in early outbreak responses and refusal to allow full international access to lab data. This was especially shown after the COVID-19 outbreak that started in Wuhan. While China was never accused of supporting bioterrorism, the nation is often central to debates about bio-risk management.

Russian Federation

Back in the past, the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) operated one of the largest and most secretive biological weapons programmes in history. Although Russia is a signatory of the BWC today, international transparency still remains limited. Western countries have repeatedly expressed concerns that Russia may possess covert bioweapons capabilities or research programmes that violate BWC obligations. However, as global recognition of the danger of bioterrorism emerged,

Russia started to engage in global biosecurity protocols. The country has produced and exported COVID-19 vaccines across the world in an attempt to minimise the spread of the virus.

State of Israel

Unlike most of the UN member states, Israel neither signed nor ratified the BWC. Therefore, Israel has been widely suspected of developing offensive biological warfare capabilities, especially through the IIBR (Israel Institute for Biological Research). Indeed, many Western nations have recorded Israel as having undeclared chemical warfare capabilities and an offensive biological warfare programme, calling for more transparency and advanced biosecurity standards.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The DPRK is widely known to possess the technical capability to produce bacteria, viruses, and toxins for biological agents. Although the nation is a member of the BWC, it has failed to provide a BWC Confidence-Building Measure declaration since 1990. In 2015, a photograph of the leader of the DPRK, Kim Jong Un, visiting a biotechnical institute located in Pyongyang was revealed. Many experts agreed that the photos most likely show an operational biological weapons facility. Given these, many countries, including the Republic of Korea and the USA, claim that there are numerous offensive bioweapon programmes across the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un Tours Pesticide Facility Capable of Producing Biological Weapons (A 38 North Special Report-38 North, 2015)

State of Libya

Although Libya does not possess advanced science and technology for the mass production of harmful biological substances, it is possible that the nation can manipulate small quantities of biological weapon agents. Libya's offensive bioweapon program is heavily dependent on dual-use materials and foreign assistance. Although concerns remain, Libya has shown its commitment to international security by publicly announcing that the nation will voluntarily eliminate all materials, equipment, and programmes that could lead to internationally proscribed weapons.

Islamic Republic of Iran

During the 1980s, Iran initiated its biological research programme. Unfortunately, in the city of Dmaghan, located in Iran, an illegal production of biological agents was caught. It is possible that Iran has produced small quantities of agents and has begun to weaponise them, although the types of pathogens produced are unknown. Furthermore, Iran has previously attempted to purchase biological weapons-related materials from foreign sources for unknown use.

Timeline Of Events

Date	Description of event
States, including the United States and the USSR, agreed to the BWC, 1972	The Biological Weapons Convention was signed by a majority of the member states with the aim of preventing the misuse of biological substances.
BWC enters into force, 1975	BWC starts to legally ban biological arms and countries agree to destroy existing biological weapons.
Iraq and the USSR's violation of the BWC is uncovered, 1992	Iraq and the USSR's illegal biological weapon manufacture is uncovered by the United Nations inspections after the Gulf War.
Terrorist groups started to take advantage of biological weapons, 1995	Several terror attacks using biological weapons, such as the Aum Shinrikyo gas release in Japan, the Oregon bacteria terror, and the 9/11 terror attacks, started happening.
United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 1540, 2004	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1450 is adopted to obligate all member states to enact laws and measures to prevent terrorists and criminals from acquiring biological weapons.
WHO's IHR comes into force, 2005	All WHO member states agreed to promptly report disease outbreaks by signing the IHR (International Health Regulations)
GHSA is initiated, 2014	The GHSA (Global Health Security Agenda) was launched under the goal of improving collective prevention and detection of infectious disease threats.
United Nations adopts SDGs 3-d, 2015	The United Nations suggested the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 3-d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warnings of global health risks.
International focus on biosecurity grows due to the COVID-19 outbreak, 2021	In the wake of COVID-19, world leaders started to discover new measures to counter threats of the virus outbreak. The World Health Organization and the United Nations General Assembly hold routine and high-level meetings regarding the global virus outbreak.

UN Involvement, Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations has played a significant role in coordinating global efforts to prevent bioterrorism, working through multiple agencies, including the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the World Health Organization. These bodies provide resolutions and several documents that strengthen international cooperation and defence mechanisms against bioterrorism.

Many other international agreements or treaties have been signed to prevent the misuse of harmful biological substances outside the United Nations. Those treaties signed out of the United Nations primarily focus on export and import control of harmful substances and are mostly led by MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries).

UN Documents

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, 28 April 2004 (S/RES/1540)

  The UNSCR 1540 obligates all member states to enact laws and measures to prevent terrorists and criminal groups from acquiring nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. In 2022, the Security Council has extended its mandate until 2032.

- International Health Regulations, 15 June 2005

  International Helath Regulation, or the IHR, was signed by all member states of the WHO. The regulations encourage all nations to promptly report any disease outbreak that could spread internationally, and to develop core IHR capacities.

Disarmament and Ban

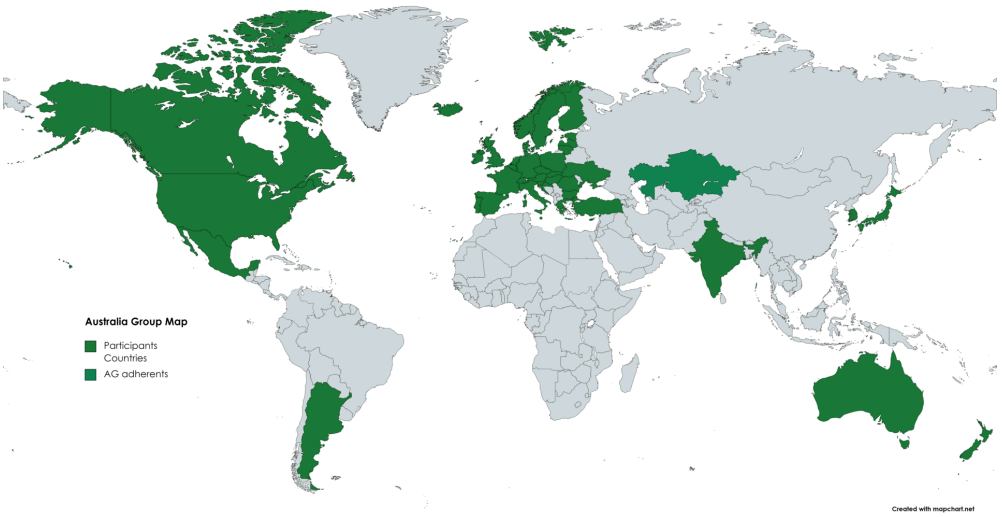
- Geneva Protocol, 17 June 1925: The Geneva Protocol is a multilateral treaty that was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1925. It aims to prohibit the use of biological and chemical weapons in wartime. The Protocol officially entered into force in 1928.

- Biological Weapons Convention, 10 April 1972: Biological Weapons Convention, also known as the BWC, is a treaty that promotes a comprehensive ban on the production, distribution, and use of biological weapons in any situation. The BWC is considered the cornerstone of global biosecurity.

- Council of Europe MEDICRIME Convention, 28 October 2011: The MEDICRIME Convention was signed at the Council of Europe to counter the manufacturing of falsified medical products.

Export and Import Regulations

- Australia Group Export Control Regime, 1985: The Australia Group is a MECR (Multilateral Export Control Regime) established in 1985. The regime sets strict guidelines on export controls of chemical and biological substances so as not to spread lethal weapons.



Australis Group participation map (Wikipedia, 2025)

- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 29 January 2000

  The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is an international agreement on regulating the movement of living modified organisms, including biotech products. To be specific, it bans the import and export of genetically modified organisms that are not proven to be safe.

Enhancing Collaboration and Prevention Mechanisms

- European Union CBRN Act Plan, 2015: The CBRN Act plan is a measure to enhance preparedness for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attacks. It was signed by the majority of the EU member states in 2009, but entered into force in 2015.

- Global Health Security Agenda, 2018

  The USA and partner nations initiated the Global Health Security Agenda. The convention was established at a time when the deadly Ebola epidemic in West Africa underscored the need for international cooperation. Therefore, its main goal is to improve collective prevention and detection of infectious disease threats.

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