Dealing with deliberate disease

Piers Millett
Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit
“We must look at [the BWC] as part of an interlinked array of tools, designed to deal with an interlinked array of problems”

UN Secretary General, 2006
“There is a large potential area of overlap… for global public health the engagement by the security sector is a very welcome development, however... global public health cannot be perceived as losing its traditional focus”

ADG Fukuda, World Health Organization, 2010
“...to manage the full spectrum of biological risks... you need a cohesive, coordinated network of activities and resources. Such a network will help to ensure that biological science and technology can be safely and securely developed for the benefit of all.”
from banning biological weapons...

...to ensuring biology is done safely, securely and solely for our benefit
Security

Health
A new vision of the BWC

Mutual reinforcement:
Cooperation reduces risks;
Reducing risks encourages cooperation.
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
the possibility of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins being used as weapons... would be repugnant to the conscience of [human]kind
"There is no technical solution to the problem of biological weapons. It needs an ethical, human and moral solution if it's going to happen at all"

Joshua Lederberg (Nobel Prize for Medicine 1958)
- Dedicated response
- International response
- Global coverage
- Leverage power of states
- Human-centric approach
- Tap global capacity
- Engage new biotech leaders
- Direct stakeholder engagement
- Multi-sectoral response
- Universal access
State Action

This is multilateralism as it should be: flexible, responsive, creative and dynamic; and above all, focused on overcoming obstacles and delivering results

Kofi Annan
(UN Secretary-General 1997-2006)
Annual Exchange of Data

- Labs (high Containment Labs (BSL4) and biodefence facilities)
- Unusual disease events
- Publication policy
- National implementation measures
- Past offensive / defensive activities
- Vaccine production capacity
Implementation Support Unit
AMBITIOUS REALISM

Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.

Theodore Roosevelt
2012 - 2015 Intersessional Programme

Standing Agenda Items

- Participation in Annual Exchanges of Information
- Procedures & Mechanisms for Responding to Use

- Assistance & Cooperation
- Reviewing S&T
- Strengthening Implementation
Reports on Implementation of Article on Peaceful Use Challenges & Obstacles to Cooperation & Assistance Specific measures to implement article on peaceful uses Means of developing human resources in the life sciences Capacity-building in dealing with disease Coordination with other stakeholders Ways & means to target & mobilize resources Assistance & Cooperation
Assistance & Cooperation Database

Sponsorship Programme
Developments with weapons applications

Measures for strengthening biorisk management

Measures to encourage responsible conduct

Education and awareness-raising about risks & benefits

Developments relevant to the activities of multilateral organizations

Developments with benefits for BWC

Science & Technology

Any other relevant developments
National Implementation

- Measures for full & comprehensive implementation
- Ways and means to enhance national implementation
- Regional and sub-regional cooperation
- Laboratory biosafety and security of toxins & pathogens
- Any potential further measures
www.unog.ch/bwc

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