



## 2022 Next Generation for Biosecurity Competition Submission Outline

### Format

- Title page should include team member names, organizational affiliations, and home countries.
  - Submissions should be in 12-point Times New Roman font, single spaced.
  - Headings may be bolded and/or italicized in 12-point font.
  - Sections should have a single blank line of separation as demonstrated in this document.
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**Prompt: How can the global community leverage the tools of modern science to develop an effective and politically acceptable verification protocol to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention?**

### Executive Summary (200 – 300 words)

Provide a stand-alone summary of your team’s research approach, discussion, and recommendations on how the global community can leverage the tools of modern science to develop an effective and politically acceptable verification protocol to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention. The information in this section can be creatively formatted with graphics if desired.

### Background (500 – 700 words)

In the Background Section, you should clearly define what “verification” should mean for the BWC. Explore what a verification mechanism should entail (i.e., onsite inspections, offsite monitoring, and/or voluntary declarations). This section should also explore what barriers to verification protocols exist or have previously existed. Lastly, this section should identify and define any risks associated with maintaining the status quo of not having BWC verification measures. Submissions should have quantitative and qualitative analyses using publicly available information, such as the 2021 Global Health Security Index, to identify gaps in national compliance with international norms and national biosecurity capacities.

### Discussion (1,000 – 1,400 words total)

The Discussion Section should pull from the Background section and build arguments for “what a verification mechanism should entail.” Explore what kinds of data should be collected for compliance assurance. Submissions should primarily focus on identifying and examining potential approaches for a verification protocol from a scientific and technical standpoint. What tools of modern technology and bioscience can be applied to advance the feasibility of verification within the BWC context? This should build upon the Background Section looking at “barriers to verification protocols” and define how the global community can leverage the tools of modern science to overcome these barriers. Lastly, this section should explore who should execute the mechanism and how should it be structured.

### **Conclusions (200 – 300 words)**

Present the key points and summary of your analysis around how modern science and technology can be applied towards a verification mechanism for the BWC. Address how governments can productively approach BWC verification by designing and proposing policies that can increase the likelihood of adoption of a verification mechanism. This should pull from the Background Section and build arguments for how to overcome “barriers to verification protocols [that] exist or have previously existed.” Explore how to build a verification regime that strikes the right balance between improving transparency while not being excessively intrusive.

### **References**

Please submit all references in MLA format. As needed, use the [Owl Purdue MLA Style Guide](#) for citation assistance.

### **Appendix**

Discussion:

- Abbreviations used in the submission text may be explained here.
- If analysis was performed using a program (ex. R studio, SAS, STATA, SPSS, etc.), please include annotated code and relevant output.
- If additional coding of primary/secondary sources was performed, please include a codebook here.

Relevant Published Figures:

- If figures from papers are cited in the submission, please include the full figure and appropriate citation here.

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### **Curriculum Vitae and Resumes**

- CVs and resumes for each team member (3 in total) should be combined into a SINGLE document and be submitted as a SEPARATE PDF.