2025 Next Generation for Biosecurity Competition
Submission Guidelines

Formatting
- 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 do we define "biological weapons," given the ever-evolving threat landscape, and what actions should the international community take to reduce the risks they pose?

Executive Summary (Up to 300 words)
Provide a stand-alone summary of your team's research approach, definition of biological weapons, and policy recommendations that countries and/or organizations should adopt to strengthen international norms against biological weapons development and use.

Background (Up to 500 words)
Provide a clear definition of a biological weapon to be used throughout the paper. Describe how this definition has evolved over time, considering scientific and technological innovations and other factors. Ensure the identified factors are relevant within an international context.

Discussion (Up to 800 words)
This section should discuss how the scientific and technological innovations or other factors identified in the Background section are reshaping not only the definition of biological weapons, but also the risk that state and non-state actors might develop or use them and the resulting impacts on global security and stability. Submissions should consider how shifting views could impact international mechanisms designed to prevent the development and use of biological weapons, such as the Biological Weapons Convention or the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Recommendations (Up to 1,000 words)
Offer policy recommendations to strengthen international norms against the development and use of biological weapons considering scientific and technological innovations and other factors shaping the definition of bioweapons and the threat they pose to global security and stability. Your recommendations and strategies should take into account existing mechanisms and previous efforts to expand or strengthen them. Consider progress and/or outcome indicators that might assess the effectiveness of your recommendations and strategies.

The information in this section can be creatively formatted with graphics if desired. Strive to ensure your recommendations address the impacts you identified in the background and discussion sections.

Remember! This is an opportunity to influence global policy discussions, engage with leading experts, and make a meaningful impact in the biosecurity community. Strive for your paper to include:

- Innovative policy recommendations to strengthen international norms
- Strategies for leveraging innovation to enhance biosecurity while preventing misuse
- Frameworks for international collaboration on emerging biothreats

Conclusions (Up to 400 words)

Provide a summary of your background, discussion, and recommendations including priority actions the international community should take to address the evolving threat of biological weapon development and use.

Appendix

- List of experts consulted for the paper.
- Abbreviations used in the submission text may be explained here.
- If analysis was performed using a program (e.g., 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.

References

Please submit all references in Chicago Manual of Style (17th Edition) format using endnotes. As needed, use this resource for citation assistance.

Figures and Tables

If you included figures within your paper, please ensure that they are properly cited in the text.

Definition of Biosecurity

For the purposes of this competition, please use the following definition for biosecurity:

- **Biosecurity** – policies and practices that protect against the deliberate misuse of biology to cause harm

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Submission

- The submission deadline is **SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025, at 11:59PM ET**. Teams should submit their papers in PDF format using this link: https://www.tfaforms.com/5169976.

Resumes

- Resumes for each team member (3 in total) should be combined into a SINGLE document. Each resume should be TWO PAGES maximum, for a total of no more than SIX PAGES.