

2025 Next Generation for Biosecurity Delegation Poster Submission Guidelines

Over the past fifty years, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) has fostered a shared global responsibility to safeguard biological sciences from misuse, strengthened the norm against biological warfare, and created a platform for cooperation on security obligations. As part of this delegation experience, we plan to host a poster session to showcase innovative policy proposals and technical initiatives that support the goals of the BWC and contribute to strengthening biosecurity globally.

We invite abstract submissions from students, early-career professionals, and researchers whose work addresses key challenges and opportunities in biological disarmament, biosecurity, and international cooperation. Selected posters will be presented during a poster session side event, offering participants the opportunity to engage with peers, experts, and policymakers at the BWC.

Abstracts should align with one of the following three themes:

1. **International Cooperation and Assistance under Article X** – This theme focuses on efforts to promote peaceful uses of biological science and technology through international collaboration. Submissions may address:
 - Capacity-building initiatives in low- and middle-income countries
 - Technology transfer and equitable access to biosciences
 - Regional and global partnerships for peaceful biological research
 - Case studies of successful cooperation under Article X
2. **Scientific and Technological Developments Relevant to the Convention** – This theme explores the impact of emerging science and technology on the BWC. Submissions may include:
 - Dual-use research and its implications for biosecurity
 - Advances in synthetic biology, genomics, and biotechnology and related risks
 - Governance approaches that address rapidly evolving risk landscape
 - Monitoring and evaluating scientific trends relevant to the Convention
3. **Confidence-Building, Transparency, and Compliance and Verification** – This theme highlights mechanisms that promote trust and accountability among States Parties. Submissions may cover:
 - Confidence-building measures (CBMs) and transparency initiatives
 - National and international compliance strategies
 - Verification tools and technologies
 - Policy proposals to strengthen BWC implementation and oversight

Abstract Requirements

- **Word Limit:** Up to 500 words
- **Language:** English
- **Format:**
 - Title of the abstract

- Author and affiliation(s)
 - Selected theme (see below)
 - Main body of the abstract
 - **Themes (choose one):**
 - International Cooperation and Assistance under Article X
 - Scientific and Technological Developments Relevant to the Convention
 - Confidence-Building, Transparency, and Compliance and Verification
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Content Guidance

Abstracts should:

- Clearly identify a relevant issue or challenge related to the selected category
 - Provide background or context for the issue
 - Present key insights, findings, or approaches
 - Include **policy and/or technical recommendations** aimed at strengthening biosecurity
 - Reflect on how the **BWC can support or be integrated into the proposed solutions**
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Selection Criteria

Abstracts will be evaluated based on:

- Relevance to the BWC and selected theme
- Clarity and coherence of the issue identified and proposed recommendations
- Originality and potential impact
- Quality of writing and organization

The review committee will allow the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance clarity and strengthen writing, but the use of AI tools to generate substantive content in response to the application prompts will result in the applicant's disqualification.

Definition of Biosecurity

For the purposes of this application, 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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Resources

To support applicants who may not be familiar with the BWC, linked below are informational resources as well as BWC official documents, including working papers submitted by States Parties. These resources can help you frame your abstract within the context of the BWC and its evolving discussions.

Introductory Resources

- **The Biological Weapons Convention**
 <https://www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons/>

- **The Biological Weapons Convention: An Introduction (Third Edition)**

 <https://disarmament.unoda.org/publications/the-biological-weapons-convention/>

This publication provides a comprehensive overview of the Biological Weapons Convention. It covers the history of the negotiations and the current state of implementation of the Convention. It also explains the significance of the Convention in the modern world.

- **Guide to Implementing the Biological Weapons Convention**

 <https://disarmament.unoda.org/guide-to-implementing-the-biological-weapons-convention/>

This publication assists States Parties in their efforts to implement the Convention at the national level. The Guide is primarily intended to provide an overview of the national implementation process and obligations stemming from the BWC.

Accessing Working Papers from the Working Group on Strengthening the Convention

To explore what States Parties have said on various topics, including Article X, S&T developments, and compliance, you can search official working papers and submissions here:

- **UN Official Document Repository**

 <https://documents.un.org>

Use search terms like “BWC/WG”, “BWC/MSP”, or “BWC/CONF” to find relevant documents. You can also filter by year or session to narrow your results.

- **UNODA Meetings Portal – Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention**

This [page](#) provides access to documents and statements from past meetings of the Working Group.