
**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their
Destruction**

13 December 2023

Original: English

2023 Meeting
Geneva, 11–13 December 2023

**Contribution of the Russian Federation to the
implementation of Article X of the BTWC (cooperation and
assistance). Results of the IV International Scientific and
Practical Conference "Global Biosecurity Challenges.
Problems and Solutions (Russia, Sochi, June 22-23, 2023)**

Submitted by the Russian Federation





**FEDERAL SERVICE FOR SURVEILLANCE ON CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION
AND HUMAN WELL-BEING**

**Contribution of the Russian Federation to the
implementation of Article X of the BTWC (cooperation
and assistance)**

**Results of the IV International Scientific and Practical
Conference "Global Biosecurity Challenges. Problems
and Solutions"
(Russia, Sochi, June 22-23, 2023)**

Geneva, December 12, 2023



JUNE 22 – 23, 2023, SOCHI (RUSSIA)



Over **400** delegates

from **32** states:

- ✓ Central Asia
- ✓ Southeast Asia
- ✓ Latin America
- ✓ Africa
- ✓ Europe

7 international organizations



MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED BY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Current biosecurity threats associated with the spread of infectious diseases

Risks of misuse of scientific and technological advances in the biological field

Uneven capabilities of States to prevent, detect and respond to biological incidents

Ways to strengthen the regime of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

Military-biological research by the United States and its allies in the post-Soviet countries, especially in Ukraine

2 PLENARY SESSIONS AND 6 PARALLEL SECTIONS WERE ORGANIZED DURING THE CONFERENCE



SECTION NO. 1 "RISKS OF BIOTECHNOLOGIES AND PROSPECTS OF REGULATION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL"



Chairman
Husham Ahmed,
Counselor at the
Permanent Mission of
Pakistan to the UN Office
in Geneva

There was a discussion on:

- new developments in biotechnology that require attention and assessment from a non-proliferation perspective;
- main approaches and practices of biotechnology regulation to ensure biosafety at the national level.





SECTION NO. 2 "SOVEREIGNTY AND COLLECTIVE BIOLOGICAL SECURITY"



Chairman
Vladimir Kuttyrev,
Director of the Russian
Research Anti-Plague
Institute "Microbe" of
Rosпотребнадзор



The session noted:

- biological risks are transboundary;
- biosecurity in today's world is difficult to achieve in a separate state and requires international cooperation;
- international cooperation in this area is often unequal - biological security of some states is built without creating equal capacity of partner countries;
- many biosecurity initiatives are in fact only aimed at monitoring threats extraterritorially .



SECTION NO. 3 "EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE FIELD OF PANDEMIC PREVENTION"



Chairman
**Vyacheslav
Smolensky**, Deputy
Head of
Rosпотребнадзор

During the session there was a discussion:

- decisions on amendments to the International Health Regulations 2005;
- progress in the development of a new Convention/Agreement or other international instrument to combat pandemics

The session noted:

Need for new changes in international regulation to better prepare for future epidemic threats





SECTION NO. 4 "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ARTICLE X OF THE BTWC: EXPECTATIONS AND REALITY"



Chairman
Alexey Alekhin,
Advisor to the Minister
of Industry and Trade of
Russia



During the session it was noted:

- the need to strengthen the implementation of Article X, since the mechanisms and tools existing within the BTWC are insufficient;
- lack of approaches to performance assessment (except for self-reports) of Article X;
- lack of approaches to assessing a potential violation of Article X;
- the absence of real measures ensuring the universal and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X



SECTION NO. 5 "STRENGTHENING THE BTWC REGIME: PRACTICAL STEPS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD 2023 -2026"



Chairman
Konstantin Vorontsov,
Deputy Director of the
Department for Non-
Proliferation and Arms
Control of the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs of
Russia



The session noted the need for:

- active inter-sessional work by experts and Participating States within the framework of the inter-sessional work program for the period 2023-2026 adopted at the 9th BTWC Review Conference;
- developing a common denominator for strengthening the convention and coming up with concrete proposals that could be adopted by the anniversary Review Conference.



SECTION NO. 6 "BIOLOGICAL SAFETY AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES"



Chairman
Vadim Govorun,
 Director of the
 Research Institute of
 Systems Biology and
 Medicine of
 Rospotrebnadzor

The session was dedicated to:

biological safety risks associated with the use of modern **digital technologies**, including **artificial intelligence**, which are widely used in all areas today, including:

- ✓ epidemiology ;
- ✓ microbiology ;
- ✓ bioinformatics ;
- ✓ development of means of prevention and treatment of infections.





MAIN CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

The key importance of the BTWC as a fundamental instrument of international law is confirmed.

It was emphasized that the potential for cooperation provided by the Convention to achieve its goals was far from being fully utilized.

Special attention is paid to the discussion of the tasks of the **Working Group** on Strengthening the BTWC, established following the results of the IX BTWC Review Conference.

The expediency of providing information about military biological activities abroad.

The need to analyze scientific and technological achievements relevant to the Convention.

The need to strengthen the Convention, first of all, by developing a legally binding Protocol with an effective verification mechanism.

The need to update the principles and procedures of the UN Secretary General's Mechanism for the Investigation of Possible Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons was emphasized.



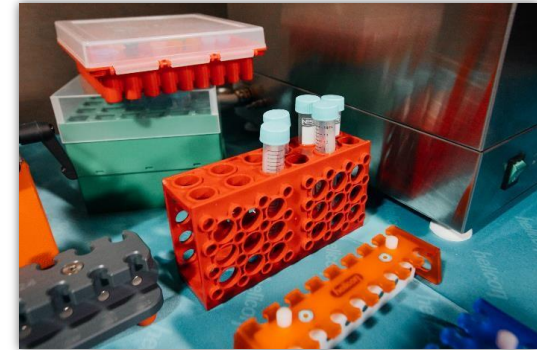
BEST PRACTICES AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF BIOSECURITY ARE PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE SITE



The new Russian **mobile biomedical rapid response units** of Rospotrebnadzor and the Ministry of Defense of Russia



Exhibition of Russian Laboratory Equipment, tests, consumables





PLAN OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

	Date / place	Events
 BRICS+	Quarter III 2024 (venue to be specified)	International Conference "Biohazards and pathogens. The BRICS response."
 KAZAN	Quarter IV 2024 Kazan, Russia	International training of rapid response teams for sanitary and epidemiological emergencies using mobile laboratories .
 SAINT-PETERSBURG	December 2024 Saint Petersburg, Russia	V International Scientific and Practical Conference on Countering COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases.
 Sochi RUSSIA	Quarter II 2025 Sochi, Russia	V International Scientific and Practical Conference "Global Biosecurity Challenges. Problems and Solutions".



Thank you for your attention!

