

INFORMING POLICY-MAKERS OF THE PROGRESS IN STRENGTHENING THE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME

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<https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/research/research-initiatives/policy-engagement/biological-and-chemical-security-project/>

POLICY REPORT – KEY ISSUES

The international chemical and biological weapons disarmament and non-proliferation regimes centred on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) face multi-faceted challenges in a period of significant international discord. The short policy report examines the scope of possibilities for strengthening these regimes. The report addresses the following key issues:

The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

Cooperation and Assistance under the BTWC (MX1)
Review of Science and Technology under the BTWC (MX2)
National Implementation of the BTWC (MX3)
Assistance, Response, and Preparedness under the BTWC (MX4)
Institutional Strengthening of the BTWC (MX5)

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

The Case of Syria
Use of Novichok Chemical Agents in Targeted Assassinations
Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement
Riot Control Agents (RCAs)
Riot Control Agents – Means of Delivery

RESEARCH

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project fits within the tradition of diverse civil society efforts to strengthen the norm against chemical and biological weapons. It has two primary objectives: (1) to inform and support **evidence-based policy-making** and (2) to explore **novel approaches** for **disseminating** of policy research and **engaging** government and civil society stakeholders with the chemical and biological disarmament and non-proliferation regime. This poster presents the **project concept** focusing on the **activities** that have been carried out and the **outputs** that have been generated.

POLICY IMPACT

ENGAGING WITH PARLIAMENT

The policy report has been promoted among members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. To further facilitate engagement with policy-makers, the project research findings will be presented during an expert webinar on **Biological and Chemical Weapons Challenges** that is hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Non-Proliferation (APPG). The **APPG** is a cross-party group of UK Parliamentarians that seeks to encourage discussion and debate on matters relating to global security and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction – whether nuclear, chemical or biological.

DISSEMINATION

OUTREACH

PUBLIC WEBINAR

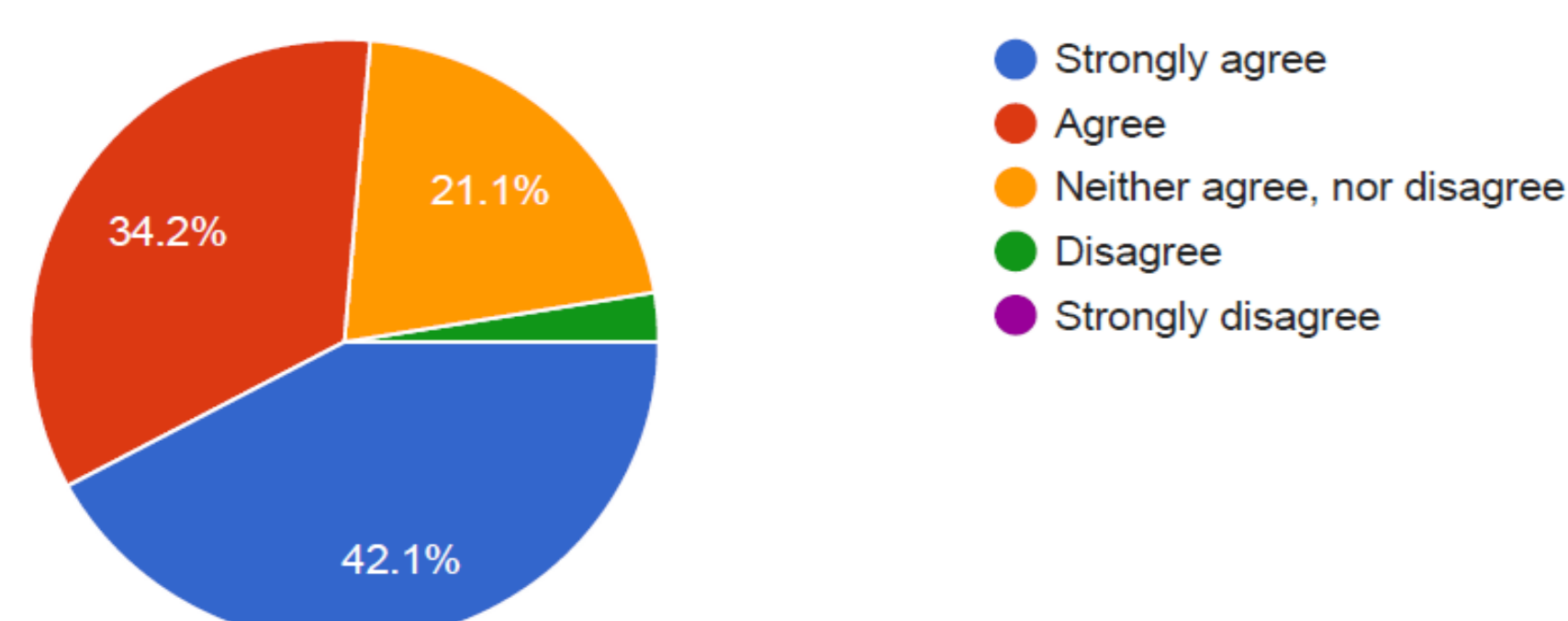
The findings of the policy report titled *Biological and Chemical Security After COVID-19: Options for Strengthening the Chemical and Biological Weapons Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Regimes* were presented during an expert-level webinar. The webinar **Chemical and Biological Non-Proliferation Regime after Covid-19** was held on 9 February 2021. Some 175 participants attended the webinar which was broadcasted live and subsequently made available to watch on-demand. A short online survey was carried out after the event to elicit general views and opinions on some of the key issues that were addressed during the webinar. The figures present sample survey results.

CARTOONS AS AWARENESS-RAISING TOOLS

To facilitate awareness-raising of biological and chemical security issues among different stakeholders, a cartoon series that focuses on illustrating key BTWC and CWC issues has been produced. The cartoon series titled **Strengthening the Web of Prevention against Chemical and Biological Weapons** features five two-page cartoons that examine the concept of dual use; codes of conduct; education; security culture; and 'one health' security. The cartoons have been translated into more than **ten** languages.

A formal process for the review and assessment of life sciences advances needs to be established within the framework of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).

38 responses



The existing international mechanisms for investigation and establishing accountability in case of use of chemical weapons (e.g. in Syria) need to be strengthened.

38 responses

