

From Concept to Action: Implementing an International Biosecurity Education Network (IBSEN)*

Chair, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of London Metropolitan University and its Biological Security Research Centre.

The Chair's Non-paper rolling texts of 06 May and 28 July 2025 on *Possible elements of specific and effective measures, including possible legally-binding measures, to strengthen and institutionalize the Biological Weapons Convention in all its aspects* contained under **A. Measures on international cooperation and assistance under Article X** the following possibility:

"The Working Group recommends that the Implementation Support Unit cooperates with relevant stakeholders to establish an International Biosecurity Education Network. This Education Network would serve as a forum to further promote the harmonization of curricula and the evaluation of biosecurity education. It would develop freely accessible teaching materials such as MOOC-style online courses and support biosecurity education at the national level which is informed by best practices. Furthermore, the Education Network would serve as a platform for student and faculty exchanges with the aim of fostering and facilitating international scientific exchange and collaboration for peaceful purposes."

Mr. Chair, we believe that this measure would have widespread support among civil society for the following reasons:

1. The IAEA and the OPCW have already established that such support of security education, through the International Nuclear Security Education Network and the

Advisory Board on Education and Outreach respectively, is an effective and efficient method of strengthening support for these agreements.

2. The Tianjin Guidelines for Codes of Conduct under the Biological Weapons Convention specifically stress the need, under element 6, for awareness raising and education about the Convention and biosecurity.
3. The World Health Organization, in its *Global Guidance Framework for the Responsible Use of the Life Sciences*, recently confirmed (page 28) that “A chronic and fundamental challenge in biorisk management is a widespread lack of awareness that work in the area of the life sciences could be conducted or misused in ways that result in health and security risks to the public.” The education needed to effectively support the Convention through the Tianjin Guidelines on Codes of Conduct is rarely available in the life science community.
4. Numerous projects on biosecurity for life scientists have been carried out by civil society under various funding sources, including from States Parties to the Convention. Much relevant information has been obtained in these diverse projects and this being collated, integrated and analysed through the *Newsletters* of the pilot International Biosecurity Education Network of London Metropolitan University. This involves a wide range of people from diverse countries around the world.
5. Therefore, the implementation of the concept of an International Biosecurity Education Network organised by the ISU would be able to build on solid foundations.

Mr. Chair,

We would like to highlight our side event ‘*Biosecurity education: from concept to implementation*’ taking place on Tuesday 12 August from 13.15-14.45pm in Room XXII and invite all States Parties to attend and join in a robust discussion on the future evolution of biosecurity education and awareness-raising of dual-use issues in the life sciences, including the potential of a well-supported and sustainable International Biosecurity Education Network.

Thank you.

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