

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL THREAT REDUCTION

CICG Conference Center
Geneva, Switzerland

28-30 October 2025

Provisional Programme

Please note titles and timings of sessions may change

Tuesday 28 October 2025	
Time	
8:00 – 9:30	Registration
Opening Session	
Chair: Montserrat Arroyo, WOAH Deputy Director for International Standards and Science	
10:00 – 10:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Emmanuelle Soubeyran, WOAH Director General John Steenhuisen, Minister of Agriculture, South Africa Trevor Smith, Deputy Director & Senior Program Manager, Global Affairs Canada Weapon's Threat Reduction Program Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi, President of INTERPOL</p>
10:30 – 11:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Keynote speaker (to be announced shortly)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Emma Ross, Chatham House</p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One Health and Security - a multi-sectoral approach to biological threat reduction</p> <p>Chair: Chadia Wannous, WOAH</p> <p>This high-level panel discussion will examine the intersection of One Health and Security, highlighting shared strategic priorities across sectors to strengthen collective action. The session will explore what constitutes a truly multi-sectoral approach to preventing, preparing for, detecting, and responding to biological threats. Panellists will identify key challenges and propose solutions for effective collaboration. The discussion will also address the role and level of security sector engagement in One Health, examine relevant terminology, and consider pathways for future progress.</p>

11:35 -12:35	<p>Wanda Markotter, One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) and University of Pretoria</p> <p>Naomi Acquah, Ghana Police Service</p> <p>Christian Arioli, Spiez Laboratory, Switzerland</p> <p>Agnès Romatet-Espagne, General Secretariat for Defense and National Security (SGDSN), France</p> <p>Zibusiso Masuku, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)</p>	
12:35–13:45	Lunch Break	
13:45 – 15:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The biological threat landscape – drivers, current challenges and the future</p> <p>Chair: Clarissa Rios, Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU)</p> <p>This session will explore the drivers of biological threats and examine the current and emerging threat landscape emphasising the need for a multi-sectoral approach. The discussion will include factors such as geopolitical changes, conflict, climate change, and public perception of risk. Historical and contemporary case studies will be used as well.</p>	
13:45 –14:00	The Dominoes We Don't See: Rethinking Global Biothreat Systems as Intersections and Cascades	Alex Tasker, University of Bristol
14:00– 14:15	Geopolitical drivers	Tania Sollogoub, Crédit Agricole Group
14:15 – 14:30	Anthrax Outbreak in Nigeria: Challenges and Lessons Learned	Ishiaku Mohammed, Animal Health and Reproductive Services Department, Nigeria
14:30 – 14:45	Understanding the Drivers of Foot and Mouth Disease Spread: The Indonesian Experience	Hendra Wibawa, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia
14:45 – 15:15	Discussion	All speakers
15:15 –15:45	Refreshment break	
		<p>Side Event</p> <p>Safeguarding Africa's Bioeconomy</p> <p>Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa (SIMBA)</p> <p>Partnership between the G7-led Global Partnership and the Africa CDC</p>

15:45 – 17:15	Session 3		
	Deliberate biological events – Agro-crime, agro-terrorism and bio-terrorism		
	Chair: Adrien Sivignon, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)		
	This session will focus on deliberate biological events with particular attention to agro-crime, agro-terrorism, and bio-terrorism. Using real-world case examples, the discussion will highlight lessons identified and good practices for stakeholders working at the intersection of health and security.		
	15:45 – 16:00	A case study approach to agro-crime and bio-terrorism	Stephen Goldsmith, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States of America (USA)
	16:00 – 16:15	Industry perspectives on agro-crime and agro-terrorism	Quincy Lissaur, S-SAFE
16:15 – 16:30	Multi-sectoral collaboration in the investigation of suspicious biological events	Fanny Ewann, INTERPOL	
16:30 – 16:50	Strengthening Cooperation between Veterinary Services and Law Enforcement in Tunisia to Counter Agro-Crime and Agro-Terrorism	Mohamed Elias Barbria, General Directorate of Veterinary Services, Tunisia Ahmed Kasraoui, General Directorate of National Security, Tunisia	
16:50 – 17:15	Discussion	All speakers	
17:15 – 18:15	Session 4		
	Beyond traditional biothreats		
	Chair: Anne-Sophie Lequarré, European Commission		
	This session will explore underrepresented threats in biological threat reduction such as biotoxins, illegal wildlife trade, and pathogens currently not included on international biothreat lists.		
	17:15 – 17:30	ECO-SOLVE Project	Simone Haysom, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
17:30 – 17:45	Biological threats: Beyond pathogen lists	Julio Carvalho, Portuguese Army	
17:45 – 18:00	Biotoxin analysis within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention	Karina Vignati, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)	
18:00 – 18:15	Discussion	All speakers	
18:15	Welcome reception and poster session		
		Side event Countering disinformation and misinformation workshop United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)	

Wednesday 29 October 2025

9:00 – 10:30	Session 5 Emerging technologies - opportunities and risks in biological threat reduction Chair: Loren Matheson, Defence Research and Development Canada This panel discussion will delve into opportunities and risks with emerging technologies in biological threat reduction.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Partnership CBRN Working Group Co-Chair • Cindy Vestergaard, Stimson Center • Elodie Liobard, INTERPOL • Whitney Bowman-Zatzkin, Bioeconomy Information Sharing and Analysis Center (BIO-ISAC) • Brad Pickering, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) 			
10:30 – 11:00	Refreshment break			
11:00 – 12:30	Session 6 Sustainable laboratories Chair: Zibusiso Masuku, Africa CDC Many laboratories around the world suffer from sustainability challenges that undermine performance, safety and security. This session is forward looking and will explore solutions that can improve the sustainability of laboratories, particularly in low to middle income settings.		Side event Fostering collaboration between Law Enforcement and Veterinary Services WOA and INTERPOL	
	11:00 – 11:15	The Biosafety Research Roadmap – building evidence to support risk management		Allan Bennett, Member of the Technical Working Group
	11:15 – 11:30	A deep dive into laboratory facility sustainability (survey results)		Gregers Chalker, POND
	11:30 – 11:50	BioPrevail - Finding solutions through design sprints		Lisa McDonald, Global Health Security Fund
	11:50 – 12:30	Discussion		All speakers
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break			

14:00 – 15:30	Session 7		Side event Leveraging the expertise of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence to strengthen 'One Health' approaches in reducing biological threats	
	Advances in surveillance and diagnostic technologies for biological threat reduction			
	Chair: Primal Silva, former Chief Science Operating Officer at CFIA			
	This technical session showcases advances in surveillance and diagnostic technologies that could support biological threat reduction.			
	14:00 – 14:15	Strengthening One Health security through smarter biosurveillance		Ekta Patel, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
	14:15 – 14:30	Optimising use of next generation sequencing for One Health biothreat reduction		Sam Yingst, Columbia University
	14:30 – 14:45	Case study: tailored analysis of surveillance data		Kamran Khan, BlueDot Inc
14:45 – 15:00	Attribution of a biological animal health event using diagnostic and surveillance data	Michael Bryan, Oxford University		
15:00 – 15:30	Discussion	All speakers		
15:30 – 16:00	Refreshment break			
16:00 – 17:30	Session 8			
	Sustainable approaches in emergency management			
Chair: Dr Kirk Douglas, University of West Indies				
This session will explore practical and sustainable approaches to managing animal health emergencies through real-world case studies and cross-sector collaboration. Presentations will highlight national and regional responses to transboundary animal diseases, industry perspectives, and simulation exercises.				
Time	Theme	Speaker		

16:00 – 16:20	Lessons in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Response from Hungary and Slovakia	Martin Chud, State Veterinary and Food Administration, Slovakia Lajos Bogná, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary
16:20 – 16:35	The Livestock Industry in Emergency Management- Poultry Sector Views	Nicolò Cinotti, International Poultry Council
16:35 – 16:50	Strengthening resilience to cross-border diseases in Chad	Singambaye Ghislaine Mbeurnodji, General Directorate of Veterinary Services, Chad
16:50 – 17:05	A One Health Transboundary Simulation Exercise in Jordan and Iraq	Ekhlas Hailat, Johns Hopkins Affiliate
17:05-17:30	Discussion	All speakers
17:30-17:45	Poster Prize Awards Ceremony	

Thursday 30 October 2025	
9:00 – 10:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strengthening global frameworks for biological threat reduction</p> <p>Chair: Keith Hamilton, WOAHA</p> <p>This panel discussion will explore how existing global biosecurity, non-proliferation, and disarmament frameworks, such as the Biological Weapons Convention and the United Nations Secretary General Mechanism, can be leveraged to advance biological threat reduction. The session will examine the relevance of these agreements to the animal health sector and highlight opportunities to strengthen coordination between health, security, and diplomatic communities. Discussions will focus on practical ways to enhance implementation and demonstrate the critical role of animal health systems in supporting global biosecurity objectives</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederico S. Duque Estrada Meyer, Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament • Debbie Eagles, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia • Trevor Smith, Global Affairs Canada, Canada • Maximilian Brackmann, Spiez Laboratory, Switzerland
10:30 – 11:00	Refreshment break

11:00 – 12:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advocacy and investment strategies for biological threat reduction</p> <p>Chair: Emma Ross, Chatham House</p> <p>This session will explore effective strategies for advocating for resources and sustained investment in biological threat reduction. It will highlight good practices in political engagement, including how to communicate with parliamentarians, ministers, and other decision-makers. Drawing on insights from previous sessions, the discussion will address the critical question of funding—how to secure the necessary support to turn plans into action. The session will also consider how to frame biological threats within the broader context of national and global priorities, adapting to evolving realities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Side Event</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cross-sectoral investigation exercise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">World Health Organization (WHO)</p>
	<p>Wilmot James, Brown University</p> <p>Christine Middlemiss, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, United Kingdom</p> <p>Katja Roll, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)</p> <p>Pascal Hudelet, HealthforAnimals / Boehringer Ingelheim</p>	
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	
<p>Session 11</p> <p>Taking action for collective biological threat reduction</p> <p>Chair: Tom Inglesby, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security</p>		
Time		
13:30 – 14:30	Interactive session with audience	
14:30 – 15:15	Refreshment break	
<p>Close of Conference</p> <p>Chair: Baba Soumare, WOAHA Deputy Director for Global Frameworks and Capacity Building</p>		
15:15 – 15:45	Conclusions	
15:45 – 16:00	Closing Ceremony	