



Background Paper

Committee: Security Council

Topic B: Moderating the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons to prevent bioterrorism

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The use of chemical and biological weapons around the globe is becoming more common as time passes. Chemical weapons consist of certain compounds (such as methylphosphonothioic acid, phosgene oxime, or chloropicrin, among others). Biological weapons, on the other hand, mainly depend on using bacteria, viruses, and fungi. The main objective of these types of weapons is to cause injuries, temporary incapacitation, sensory irritation, and/or even death. Bioterrorism is the use of bio-agents with the intention of causing sickness or even death to crops, animals, and livestock. Terrorists commonly use bio-agents because it is extremely complicated to detect them, and because they can be deployed in water, ground, or aerial environments. The Security Council's main objective is to prohibit the production, development, and storage of chemical and biological weapons in order to prevent bioterrorism around the globe.

Chemical arms were first used during World War I, causing more than a million casualties and 90,000 deaths. Chemical weapons have also been used during other important conflicts, including the 1980s Iran-Iraq belic conflict, and during World War II. During the Cold War, the United States of America and the Soviet Union built up a large amount of stockpiles of chemical weapons. More recently in 2012, Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdiss revealed they had possession of chemical weapons, which the nation has been using since 2018. The first recorded use of biological weapons dates from 1155, when water was poisoned, but the first register of modern bio-agents is from World War I, in which a bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis* was deployed to cause anthrax.

According to the CWC, the following nine countries have publicly revealed the possession of chemical arms: Albania, India, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Syria, the United States, Russia and an anonymous country which is mostly believed to be South Korea. The following seventeen countries own biological weapons: Canada, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Libya, North Korea, Russia, South Africa, Syria, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Taiwan. The delegation with the most amount of toxic weapons is Russia, with approximately 40,000 metric tons. While the countries with the smallest stockpiles are Albania, and Libya, with 16 and 23 tons

respectively. The United States declares having 28,577 metric tons, but plans to destroy all of its chemical weapons by 2023.

The Geneva Protocol, or the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare was established in 1925. The Geneva protocol forbids the use of chemical and biological weapons in conflicts, but it was not until 1928 when it entered into force. The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) or the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, signed in 1975, is a treaty with the main objective of stopping the production of biological weapons. In 2007, the Conference agreed on adding an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to assist State parties, and to administer the official BWC meetings. Other UN organs and related entities are the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which promotes the goal of strengthening the disarmament of chemical and biological weapons. The 1540 Committee oversees the obligation of every country to establish controls to avoid the proliferation of toxic weapons, and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) conducts research about the disarming processes and security. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also created programs related to chemical and biological weapons in order to look after the world's health.

The use of biological and chemical weapons is a problem that has existed for many years, therefore many solutions, programs, and treaties have been created to control the problem, but there are still various delegations that have used chemical and bio-agents. As a consequence of all of this, a new solution must be created. This resolution must have as its main objective, to decrease the proliferation and production of chemical and biological weapons, and if possible, completely destroy any type of toxic weapon. This solution may be complicated due to some delegation's mentality and point of view on the topic.

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