

Draft Agenda
Proof of Concept Meeting on a BWC Scientific Advisory Body
Trieste, Italy
27-28 February 2024

**Exploring possible impact of AI on Biosecurity and
International Cooperation in the BWC**

Presentations ahead of meeting (reading material, video presentations, recorded interviews/podcasts)

What are the different tools that are commonly described as “artificial intelligence” (AI) and how are they being used in biotechnology?

How might AI affect biosecurity, broadly defined, under the BWC? How might AI affect international cooperation under the BWC?

Monday, 26 February

15:00 Registration

16:00 Discussion about Meeting Goals

Plan for each day, description of meeting as proof of concept of a scientific advisory body, question that will be posed to the meeting, how the meeting will operate, addressing both substance and process, Moderated by Peter McGrath, Coordinator IAP

17:00 Welcome Reception

Tuesday, 27 February

9:00 Introduction, Interim Executive Director, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

9:10 Keynote address: Gunnar Jeremias, Head, Research Group for Biological Arms Control, University of Hamburg, *Artificial Intelligence: How it Might Harm or Help Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention*

9:30 *What is the anticipated impact of AI on biosecurity and international cooperation in the BWC Context?*

Speakers: Vukosi Marivate, University of Pretoria*
Jonas Sandbrink, UK AI Safety Institute*

*Invited

10:10 Guided discussion on anticipated impact of AI in biosecurity and international cooperation, Moderated by Kavita Berger, Director Board on Life Sciences, NASEM

10:30 Coffee break

10:45 Break-out discussions

- Participants assigned by the organizers to one of two groups:
 - o Group 1 discusses first set of questions (anticipated positive impact) Moderated by Peter Ahabwe, BWC S&T Friend of the Chair; Rapporteur Kayhan Azadmanesh, Pasteur Institute of Iran*
 - o Group 2 discusses second set of questions (anticipated negative impact) Moderated by Kavita Berger; Rapporteur Ms. Maria J Espona STCU*
- A Rapporteur for each group will verbally summarize the discussions in plenary

Breakout set of questions 1: Anticipated Positive Impact Moderated by Peter Ahabwe Rapporteur Kayhan Azadmanesh*	Breakout set of questions 2: Anticipated Negative Impact Moderated by Kavita Berger Rapporteur Maria J Espona
How could AI contribute positively to advancing biotechnology and international cooperation in the BWC context?	How could AI negatively affect biotechnology and international cooperation in the BWC context?
How could AI contribute positively to strengthening security in the BWC context?	How could AI negatively affect security in the BWC context?

11:30 Breakout discussion I ends; short break

11:45 Break-out discussion II

- Same questions as above:
 - o Group 2 now discusses first set of questions (positive impact);
 - o Group 1 discusses second set of questions (negative impact).

12:30 Group photo

12:40 Lunch

14:00 Meeting in Plenum – Discussion on anticipated positive impact, Moderated by Peter Ahabwe

- Rapporteurs on anticipated positive impact (set of questions 1) report to plenum
- Guided discussion

15:00 Meeting in Plenum – Discussion on anticipated negative impact Moderated by Kavita Berger

- Rapporteurs on anticipated negative impact (set of questions 2) report to plenum
- Guided discussion

16:00 Coffee Break

16:15 Meeting in Plenum – General Discussion, anticipated Positive and Negative Impacts on the BWC, Moderated by Cedric Invernizzi

17:15 Wrap-up, instructions for dinner, tomorrow

17:30 Adjourn

Wednesday, 28 February

9:00 Brief summary of yesterday

9:15 Presentation of draft Chair’s summary text (expected length 2 pages) for discussion, Moderated by Kavita Berger

9:30 Break for study of text

10:00 General discussion of text, Moderated by Peter Ahabwe

10:30 Coffee Break with informal discussions to review issues of disagreement

11:00 Specific discussion of text, Moderated by Cedric Invernizzi

12:00. Lunch break

14:00 Presentation and discussion of revised text, Moderated by Peter Ahabwe

15:15 Informal endorsement of text for the purpose of proof of concept exercise

15:45 General discussion of science advisory process and hybrid model, Moderated by Cedric Invernizzi

- Did this meeting demonstrate an effective mechanism? Is it realistic?
- Can it be improved? If so, how?
- Did the larger group meeting (phase 1, held virtually on 14 November) add value to the limited group (phase 2 here in Trieste)?
- How could the hybrid approach be improved?

16:30 Concluding remarks, Peter McGrath

17:00 Adjourn