The Action Package Prevent-3 (APP3) on Biosafety & Biosecurity is a community of experts and leaders from countries and non-governmental organizations that seek to advance global biosafety and biosecurity capacity under the auspices of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), in support of various international instruments and agreements including the International Health Regulations, the Biological Weapons Convention, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

- For more information about APP3 and to explore additional resources, messages, and information, see the APP3 webpage. Also, check out the APP3 Statement on Biosecurity and Biosafety during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- Interested in joining or Chairing APP3 in 2022? Consider filling out an Expression of Interest Form or reaching out to the current APP3 Chair at GHSA.APP3@gmail.com.

- Missed last month’s meeting? Check out the August 2021 meeting recording. July 2021 is also available.

- For information on joining APP3, email the Chair at GHSA.APP3@gmail.com

- GHSA Newsletter: https://ghsagenda.org/category/ghsa-newsletters/

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**KEY RESOURCES**

- Biological Risk Assessment General Considerations for Laboratories

- Biosafety and Biosecurity Aspects of SARS-CoV-2

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Monthly APP3 Teleconference; September 23, 2021 at 13.00 GMT. Details to follow by email

Ms. Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh
Chair
Global Health Security Agenda
APP3-Biosafety & Biosecurity

Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh has been working with medical laboratories in the Caribbean for almost 15 years, taking her love for quality management systems a step further with her focus on biosafety and biosecurity since 2010. In her capacity as the Biorisk Manager at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in Trinidad and Tobago, her work includes managing the biosafety and biosecurity program in the CARPHA Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML) BSL-2 and BSL-3 laboratories. Sacha cited the experience of overseeing the implementation of the BSL-3 laboratory (graciously donated by the Government of Canada), as being a key impetus for her advocating for sustainable solutions rooted in the local context when it comes to advancing best practices for biosafety and biosecurity. Since 2011, Sacha has coordinated and delivered multiple biosafety/biosecurity capacity building initiatives in over 20 countries, with more than 2000 laboratory professionals being trained in the Caribbean and continues to advocate with multisectoral stakeholders for national laboratory quality, and biosafety and biosecurity policies. In 2016, Sacha’s advocacy led to the appointments of National Focal Points (NFPs) for Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity in CARICOM countries for the first time, and currently 60% of these NFPs are women. At the international level, Sacha has represented the Caribbean at the WHO Extended Biosafety Advisory Group, was a member of the Technical Advisory Group for Chatham House’s Sustainable Laboratories Initiative and is currently a member of the IFBA Board of Directors. Key women who have directly influenced her love of science and all things “lab” include her high school Biology teacher (Ms. Deborah Hamilton), her first laboratory mentors (Ms. Yvette Irving and Ms. Lynette Hardy), Ms. Catherine Robertson (NML, Canada) and her regional colleagues, (Ms. Giselle Guevara and Ms. Lisa Edghill).

For the past year, Sacha served as the Chair of GHSA APP3 and her leadership and outstanding abilities to engage and mobilize individuals and organizations toward common goals spearheaded increased collaboration and communication and turned talk into action. Her favorite quote comes from Hellen Keller: “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”. Sacha believes that we should nurture a culture of biosafety and biosecurity in the new generation and that we all, as a global community of experts should continue to show through application and documented experiences just how integral biosafety and biosecurity are for resilient health security systems to become a reality.
UNODA and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security bring together global young biosecurity talents to celebrate International Youth Day

On the occasion of the International Youth Day (12 August 2021), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security (CHS) held a joint online workshop entitled “Youth talks: building regional bridges for global biosecurity”. The workshop brought together the Youth for Biosecurity (Y4B) alumni and Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Fellows (ELBI) to celebrate youth engagement in global biosecurity, to encourage the meaningful inclusion of young scientists in the discussions held in the framework of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and to foster peer-to-peer discussion within a growing network of biosecurity and non-proliferation professionals.

The two-hour event, supported by the European Union under European Union Council Decision 2019/97, allowed the participants to exchange on their respective engagement in global biosecurity and to discuss regional perspectives on biosecurity with experts from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).


On 17 and 18 August 2021, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) convened a two-day virtual introductory workshop on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and its Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) for Sudan authorities. The training marked the launch of Sudan’s National Preparedness Programme (NPP) under the European Union Council Decision 2019/97 in support of the BWC. The workshop drew participants from most Sudanese government entities involved in BWC national implementation, who benefitted from in-depth expert presentations by UNODA, South African and Kenyan experts. NPP’s are designed to strengthen a country’s capacity for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation.

UNODA and Mali hold workshop on Confidence-Building Measures under the Biological Weapons Convention

On 23 August 2021, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Malian Directorate of Military Engineering in its capacity as the BWC National Focal Point, and the Malian National Institute of Public Health (INSP) co-hosted an online workshop on Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) under the BWC. The goal of the workshop was to demonstrate how countries can prepare and submit CBMs; highlight overlapping requirements between the BWC and other international obligations related to biosafety and biosecurity; and outline how such measures benefit Mali’s implementation of the Convention.

More than 80 participants attended the workshop, all of whom were active in Mali’s health and security sectors, including in research, academia, and at the Permanent Mission of Mali in Geneva, Switzerland.
Additionally, representatives from relevant regional and international organizations followed the proceedings. Thanks to funding provided by the German Federal Foreign Office, simultaneous interpretation was made available in French and English.

**Side event to the Biological Weapons Convention Meetings of Experts celebrates Youth contributions to responsible innovation under the BWC**

On the margins of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Meeting of Experts 2 (MX2) on Science and Technology review, the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA), the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM), Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security (CHS), the Nuclear Threat Initiative Biological Policy and Programs (NTI | bio) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) co-hosted a side event on “Promoting youth engagement in responsible innovation under the Biological Weapons Convention”.

Coming together as a coordinated network of initiatives involving young biosecurity professionals and researchers, the five entities aimed to showcase concrete actions taken by youth for responsible science under the BWC and the potential of their expertise for finding solutions to current biosecurity policy issues. The side event also encouraged the dialogue between the scientific and diplomatic spheres, two worlds often apart, to foster scientific literacy for BWC policymakers through interactive engagement with cutting edge young scientists.

**STRENGTHENING THE CULTURE OF BIOSAFETY, BIOSECURITY, AND RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN THE LIFE SCIENCES**

The International Working Group on Strengthening the Culture of Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Responsible Conduct in the Life Sciences is currently working on revising its 2019 Guide to Training and Information Resources on the Culture of Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Responsible Conduct in the Life Sciences. If you are interested in contributing information to this catalogue and/or joining this group, contact Dr. Dana Perkins at dana.perkins@hhs.gov by 24 September.
Africa CDC Embarks on Program to Strengthen Biosafety and Biosecurity Expertise in the Africa Region

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in collaboration with Africa Union Member States is working with the National Institute of Communicable Disease of South Africa to develop “The Regional Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Professionals, for African Biosafety and Biosecurity Professional (Af-BBP). In May 2021, Africa CDC published “The Regional Priorities for Biosafety and Biosecurity (BSBS) report” that highlighted several capacity gaps including the area of training and capacity building in biosafety and biosecurity. (https://africacdc.org/download/africa-cdc-biosafety-and-biosecurity-initiative-report-on-the-consultative-process-to-identify-priorities-for-strengthening-biosafety-and-biosecurity/). The report informed the “Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan” where development of a regional training and certification program for biosafety and biosecurity is one of the three operational priority areas for the next 5 years (https://africacdc.org/download/biosafety-and-biosecurity-initiative-2021-2025-strategic-plan/). Initially, four areas of specialization of (i) installation, certification and maintenance of Biological Safety Cabinets (ii) Biorisk Management (iii) Maintenance and Management of High Containment Facilities (biocontainment) and waste management have been proposed.
7th African Conference on One Health and Biosecurity
27-29 October 2021 – Lagos, Nigeria

**Plenary Session 4 - The Global Non-proliferation Framework and Biosecurity: Connecting Political Commitment and Effective Health Security**
28 October 2021 – 11:30 am to 13:00 pm West Africa Time (UTC+1)
Organized jointly by ODA, Africa CDC, and the GP

The session is jointly organized by the GET and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in collaboration with Africa CDC, the Implementation Support Unit of the BWC and the Global Partnership Against the Spread of WMD. The session is hosted in a hybrid format and aims to:

- Discuss the threat posed by non-state actors’ access to and misuse of biological materials.
- Raise awareness on the international non-proliferation norms and their biosecurity-related obligations and opportunities.
- Introduce Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative and the Global Partnership’s Signature Initiative.
- Stimulate dialogue with experts, practitioners, and policy makers on effective means to strengthen capacities and synergies in the implementation of global nonproliferation norms and advancing regional health security.
- Expand the network of experts who are willing to actively engage at the technical level, e.g., as nominated experts or focal points for the UNSGM roster.

Registration is available here: [https://www.getafrica.org/conference-2021-registration/](https://www.getafrica.org/conference-2021-registration/)
The IFBA is pleased to announce our keynote speakers for the Opening Session of our Virtual Biosafety Conference "A Vision of Tomorrow" to be held from November 1-3, 2021.

Sean Kaufman will be addressing attendees with his "Reflections on our Interconnected Global Biosafety Community in the Wake of the Pandemic". Sean is the Chief Executive Officer and Founding Partner of Safer Behaviors, a behavioral-based solutions service that educates individuals on the risks of infectious diseases and provides training on best practices to reduce overall health and safety risks.

Click this link below to listen to what Sean has to say about biosafety professionals being our hidden courageous heroes and pioneers:

Prepare and Protect: Safer Behaviors in Laboratories and Clinical Containment Settings - YouTube

Lindsey Childers will be speaking about "Cyberbiosecurity: Tackling the New Threat at the Interface of Biosecurity and Cybersecurity". Lindsey is a Senior Program Officer supporting the US Department of State's Biosecurity Engagement Program. She is responsible for developing and directing biosecurity programs with partner countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Western Hemisphere, and for leading the US participation in the Global Partnership's Biosecurity Sub-Working Group.
PLANTARY HEALTH: 
THRIVING HUMANS CAN LEAD TO A THRIVING PLANET

Featuring:
Aaron Bernstein, MD, MPH, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School
Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) and the Planetary Health Alliance
Neil Vora, MD, U.S. Policy Fellow on Pandemic Prevention, Conservation International
Kinari Webb, MD, Founder, Health in Harmony

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT

Register

Registration available here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nHlfIKHkSVG3xZ12WC3Tsg
The conference will convene under the overarching theme of Preparing and Responding to New Post-Pandemic Challenges. The conference aims to enhance knowledge and best practices and promote collaboration and cooperation with participants from around the world.

The 2021 BSL4ZNet International Conference will be organized into four thematic sessions focused on the post-pandemic era and driving science forward.

1. Emerging and re-emerging pathogens, on September 23, 2021
2. BSL3 and BSL4 biosafety and biosecurity: international perspectives, on September 29, 2021
3. One Health perspectives, on October 7, 2021
4. Zoonotic outbreaks and pandemics: science policy and science diplomacy perspectives, on October 14, 2021

Our diverse line-up of international keynote speakers and panelists include scientific experts and leading science professionals from government, academia, industry, and non-profit organisations, working in the areas of research, emerging and re-emerging bio-threats laboratory management, biosafety and biosecurity, science diplomacy and policy. They will bring their knowledge, expertise and collaborative spirit to the conference. Expect to hear and engage in discussions on how to leverage the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other zoonotic outbreaks, through reflections and lessons learned to navigate a post-pandemic era.

The BSL4ZNet is an international network of members from 5 countries. A list of member organizations is available on the BSL4ZNet webpage. Members have agreed that the working language of the network is English. As a result, the 2021 International Conference will be delivered in English.

Registration is available here: https://pheedloop.com/register/bsl4znet2021/attendee/