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In the absence of a vaccine, the COVID-19 threat continues to dominate 2020, there remains a strong need for strengthening cooperation and assistance among countries. With the Meeting of Experts scheduled to be held during 1-10 December, the present pandemic could be viewed as the catalyst for strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention.

In this edition of CBW Magazine, Tatanya Novossiolova and Malcolm Dando have highlighted through their article, 'Strengthening the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention at the 9th Review Conference: Advancing Effective Action on Biological Security Education, Awareness, and Outreach,' the need for upholding the norms of biological prohibition.

Moreover, the threat of Coronavirus has by no means deterred the advances in chemical attacks. Ian Anthony, notes in his article 'The National Security Impact of Crimes Using Chemical Agents' the growing number of chemical attack cases and the limitations of law enforcement authorities. Rajorshi Roy echoes the same concern through his article 'Poisoning of Alexei Navalny: The Plot Thickens'. However, one cannot undermine the success of OPCW and the UN-led mission that was able to destroy the Syrian chemical stockpile in an exceptional exercise conducted in a hostile security situation. The same has been showcased by Lakshmi Priya in her article 'Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Crisis.' This year the OPCW would also be conducting the 25th Conference of the States Parties (CSP) that oversees the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, promotes the Convention's objectives, and reviews compliance with the treaty.

This issue also comprises other features like Book Review and Chemical and Biological News. With our readers' feedback, we wish to publish issues in the future that focus on a subject of particular concern. Contributions and feedback are welcome and can be addressed to: cbwmagazineeditor@gmail.com.