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The 7th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) was held at Geneva in December 2011. At this Conference, important developments in science and technology relating to the Convention were discussed with a point of view of strengthening the mechanisms for regulating, monitoring and preventing dual use technologies from falling into the hands of hostile elements. Even as technological advancement is important for betterment of knowledge, the diversity of actors makes it difficult as well as necessary to review safety and mechanisms at periodic intervals. This issue looks at the conclusions of the Review Conference.

B. M. Gandhi analyses the outcomes of this Review Conference and the documents submitted in the lead up to the Conference. Animesh Roul and Gunjan Singh analyse the recent instances of biological weapon use and threat, respectively in Afghanistan and Pakistan, highlighting the situation in the South Asian region. Based on a joint RUSI and ORF study, Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan throws light on India's vulnerabilities to the CBR materials. In the Country Profile section, Arun Vishwanathan analyses the CWC verification process in context of the discoveries of previously undeclared chemical weapons' stockpiles in Libya.

This issue also features other regular features like Chemical and Biological News and Book Review. In addition the issue also carries the Final Declaration of the 7th BTWC Rev Con.

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: editorcbw@gmail.com