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The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) held its Ninth Review Conference from 28 November to 16 December 2022. Geopolitics over biotechnology has once again made BWC an important treaty and its meetings, especially review conferences have assumed enormous significance. Covid-19 reached BWC as a section of the scientific community feared the man made virus basically causing the havoc across the world, and the international community discussed a role for the convention along with the World Health Organisation. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict occasionally highlights some of the challenges of biological and chemical weapons. Allegations of violating and undermining the treaties keep coming.

The Think Zone, a creation of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the BWC, collated information and on relevant issues relating to BWC. These resources have become useful not only for the discussions during the BWC RevCon but also afterwards. Compliance and verification once again became the topic of discussion. Although for a long period, ISU is being considered an inadequately staffed and funded to deal with the complex set of challenges bio-science and technology is posing, the 2022 RevCon has agreed to renew the mandate of the ISU and provide an additional position. This is still considered inadequate.

In comparison to the BWC, the Chemical Weapons Convention is supported by quite elaborate institutional framework—the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical weapons (OPCW). The CWC and its organisational support—OPCW—too has myriad problems. Chemical terrorism and unverified uses of chemicals as weapons have kept the meetings of the OPCW extremely

busy. The ISIS is active in a Africa and many other parts. Besides, the OPCW has to implement the mandate for peaceful uses of chemicals. The International Cooperation among member states is to be facilitated by the OPCW.

The current issue has an article on disinformation campaign. Dr Animesh Roul has discussed his paper on ongoing disinformation campaign in the realm of biological weapons. He has selected the case study of Covid-19 for his analysis. He finds all the great powers, especially China and the US involved in the disinformation regarding biological weapons.

Dr Gaurav Tyagi has discussed macro-securitization of antimicrobial resistance from an Indian perspective. Dr Suryesh K. Namdeo, in his piece, talks about the rapid advancements in science and technology, which are opening new frontiers for policy priorities in biosecurity. The article explores some of these priorities and concerns and discusses a way forward for evolving biosecurity measures with scientific developments.

The issue has a Book Review by Dr Tatyana Novossiolova. She has reviewed the book written by M. Crowley and M. Dando, titled *Toxin and Bioregulator Weapons: Preventing the Misuse of Chemical and Life Sciences*. It also carries Final Document of the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.

This issue of the CBW Magazine also comprises other features like Chemical-Biological News. With our readers' feedback, we wish to publish issues in the future that focus on a subject of particular concern. Kindly address contributions and feedback to: cbwmagazineeditor@gmail.com