

Editorial

Executive Editor

Rajiv Nayan

Consulting Editor

Ajey Lele

Associate Editor

Vivek Kaushik

The international community celebrates a world free of active chemical arsenals. Yet, the controversy surrounding chemical and biological weapons persists. The use of chemical weapons in Syria remains a divisive issue, impacting the functionality of international organizations tasked with addressing these concerns.

The Western bloc asserts that the Syrian government is violating the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), while Syria and its allies reject these claims. Additionally, Israel has faced accusations of deploying white phosphorus munitions, allegedly supplied by the US, during its conflicts in Gaza.

Despite persistent divisions, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) remains resilient, with member nations actively bolstering its implementation through the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Since the May 2023 Review Conference, the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of National Authorities, the Conference of State Parties, and various other gatherings have convened, fostering platforms for information exchange and discussions on critical issues.

Likewise, the Biological Weapons Convention continues to host regular meetings following its 2022 Review Conference. Technological advancements present challenges to treaty member states, prompting the US, Indo-Pacific nations, and others to voice their concerns and readiness to address emerging biological threats. At a regional level, organizations are engaging in discussions on the universalization and effective implementation of global treaties like the Biological Weapons Convention as well.

In his article, Animesh Roul examines the widespread ethical and legal debates globally surrounding the deployment and use of white phosphorus in contemporary conflicts, including instances in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon, and Nagorno-Karabakh. Niranjan Oak has analyzed the bill introduced for the Project Precursor Act in the US Congress by the Congressman, Michael McCaul On May 11, 2023 to address this pressing concern of Fentanyl-related deaths in the United States.

Mrinmayee Bhushan's article outlines the recent discussions held in the Biological Weapons Convention

working group meetings, which center on ensuring compliance, establishing verification methods, and implementing confidence-building measures aimed at thwarting the spread of biological weapons. James Revill has, in his paper, reckons ways to ensure compliance with 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 focuses on a subject of particular concern. Kindly address contributions and feedback to: cbwmagazineeditor@gmail.com.