

# Editorial

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This issue of the CBW Magazine examines the significant challenges surrounding the use of chemical weapons in armed conflicts and explores biosecurity concerns in the Global South, particularly in the context of strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention.

In the ongoing conflict in Sudan, evidence of the use of Chlorine Gas by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has surfaced, raising questions on the implementation and effectiveness of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In West Asia, Syria remains an important case for the chemical weapons disarmament framework. A special fund for Syria was established by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to assist with the work of uncovering the extent of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme after the regime change.

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) marked fifty years of entry into force, amid challenges in verification and monitoring. While allegations of unverified biological weapons programmes still exist, the BWC continues to be observed as a significant treaty on the non-proliferation of biological weapons. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organised an international conference on '50 Years of BWC: Strengthening Biosecurity for Global South'.

The issue features six articles that examine key concerns related to the use of chemical and biological weapons, alongside the broader challenges of biosecurity and chemical security.

The article by Mohanasakthivel J explores the reported use of chemical weapons in the conflict in Sudan. He addresses how the use

of Chlorine Gas by the Sudanese Armed Forces stands in violation of the CWC and reflects a challenge to the global norms against chemical weapons.

Dr. Maria Espona's piece focuses on the implementation of the BWC in South America. She outlines the challenges in implementing the BWC and highlights the scientific strengths of South American countries, noting their positive contributions to advancing the Convention's scientific aims. Dr. Hitesh Kumar Bhattari explored the importance of meaningful youth participation to strengthen the implementation of the legal frameworks of the chemical and biological weapons disarmament. He emphasises the involvement of youth from the Global South to acknowledge the challenges and opportunities that exist in the countries to improve international security.

Colonel Dr. DPK Pillay, SC (Retd.), in his report, assessed DRDO's Indigenous 8x8 CBRN Reconnaissance Vehicle and its broader implications for national defence and self-reliance for India. He explores how India is closing critical capability gaps through effective government-industry collaboration. Aayushi Sharma, in her article, highlights the participation of the Global South states in the BWC by examining the deliberations on the Working Group on Strengthening the Convention. She underscores that

contentions behind the implementation of Article X and the creation of a verification protocol remain central to the differences between the approaches of the Global South and the Global North pertaining to the BWC. Dr. Shayesta Nishat Ahmed's research article examines the legacy and impact of the 1995 Tokyo Subway Sarin Attacks on influencing global chemical weapons non-proliferation. She traces the various threats posed by emerging technologies and non-state actors, emphasising the need for adapting to these challenges to improve the chemical and biological weapons frameworks.

This issue also features sections like "Chemical-Biological News." With feedback from our readers, we aim to publish future editions focusing on topics of particular concern.