

Information Note¹

- Event:** Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET) 8th Conference on One Health and Biosecurity
- Organizers:** GET under the auspices of the Lagos State Government and the Lagos Commissioner for Health
- Date and Venue:** 2 -4 November 2022, Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria
- Participants:** International organisations: World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Implementation Support Unit for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC-ISU), 1540 Expert;
Regional organisations: United Nations Environmental Protection (UNEP) Africa, Epidemic and Public Health Laboratory Systems and Networks from the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO), Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC);
National agencies: Nigeria Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC), Lagos Ministry of Health, National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), Office of the Nigerian Security Adviser, Lagos State Environmental protection Agency (LASEPA), Police Hospital, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) of South Africa, U.S. Department of State, Sandia National Laboratories, Canadian Institutes of Health Research;
Non-governmental organisations: Centre for Biosecurity Studies, University of West Indies, STAT-Consults International, Public Health, University of Nairobi, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Dr. Ameyo Stella Adadevoh (DRASA) Health Trust, Business Development Manager Africa, Science Policy Consulting LLC, African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) Kenya, Strategic Purchasing Africa Resources Centre (SPARC), AMREF Africa, NTI Global Biological Policy and Programme.

Background

On August 4, 2022, Dr. Bobadoye Ayodotun, Chief Operating Officer of the GET, sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts to participate in the 8th African Conference on One Health and Biosecurity.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

Highlights

The Chief Operating Officer of the GET Consortium, the Lagos Commissioner for Health, and representatives from UNODA, UNEP Africa, WAHO, and NCDC, delivered opening remarks and goodwill messages.

The conference featured several presentations aligned with the theme “Strengthening Health Security and Mitigating Biological Threats in Africa”. Some of the presentations and panel discussions refer to the African One Health initiative (Africa CDC embraces a transdisciplinary, One Health approach to making Africa safer and healthier for humans, animal, plants, and their shared environment), public health surveillance, the importance of implementing biosafety and biosecurity measures, universalization of international treaties, sustainable bioeconomy, impact of climate change on the One Health concept, and the role of civil society and non-governmental organizations in all these processes.

The 1540 Expert delivered her presentation on the first day of the Conference. She described the requirements under resolution 1540 (2004) for States to implement measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery by non-State actors, as well as domestic control measures to prevent the proliferation of such weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials. Emphasis on measures related to the implementation of Operative Paragraphs 3 (a) and (b), including accountability, security, and physical protection measures of biological related materials in production, use, storage, or transport, was given. The Expert also presented a brief overview of the updated data on the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 in Africa and made a short reference to the ongoing Comprehensive Review process.

Among other presentations, UNODA organized a side event on the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons (UNSGM) and the BWC-ISU on the universalization of the Convention as well as its obligations and Confidence Building Measures, among other topics.

The Director General of Nigeria National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) detailed their National Biosecurity Policy 2022-2026, which main goal is to provide a national structure for effective coordination of biosecurity activities and services, including the development and implementation of guidelines, plans and regulations and strategies for best biosecurity practices.

During the third day of the Conference, among other presentations, the Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Officer of Africa CDC presented their strategic role to strengthen health security and mitigating biological threats in Africa.

The event concluded with a presentation of the Communiqué of the 8th African Conference on One Health and Biosecurity, themed Strengthening Health Security and Mitigating Biological Threats in Africa.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org