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# Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

3 August 2023

English only

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## Second Session

Geneva, 7-18 August 2023

Agenda item 6

**Identifying, examining and developing specific and effective measures, including possible legally-binding measures, and making recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention in all its aspects within the mandate of the Working Group**

## 2023 United Kingdom Biological Security Strategy

### Submitted by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. The UK's Biological Security Strategy (the Strategy) was published on 12 June 2023, setting out our renewed vision, mission, outcomes and plans to protect the UK and our interests from significant biological risks, no matter how these occur and no matter who or what they affect. It provides the overarching strategic framework for mitigating biological risks towards which a number of threat and disease specific UK strategies contribute.
2. Our vision is that, by 2030, the UK is resilient to a spectrum of biological threats, and is a world leader in responsible innovation, making a positive impact on global health, economic and security outcomes.
3. Our mission is to implement a UK-wide approach to biosecurity that strengthens deterrence and resilience, projects global leadership, and exploits opportunities for UK prosperity and science and technology (S&T) advantage.
4. The Strategy describes the four pillars of our response to biological risks:
  - **Understand** the biological risks we face today and could face in the future;
  - **Prevent** biological risks from emerging (where possible) or from threatening the UK and UK interests;
  - **Detect**, characterise and report biological risks when they do emerge as early and reliably as possible;
  - **Respond** to biological risks that have reached the UK or UK interests to lessen their impact and to enable a rapid return to business as usual.
5. In addition, three crosscutting enablers run through all four pillars and are drawn out separately:
  - **UK Leadership, Governance and Coordination:** formalise central leadership, governance and accountabilities to strengthen collective decision making and preparedness across the UK;
  - **UK Science Base, Health and Life Sciences Sectors:** strengthening and protecting our specialist biological security capabilities, and stimulating innovation and growth in the Health and Life Sciences sectors across the UK;



- **International Leadership:** UK engagement to strengthen global health security, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, international biosafety and biosecurity practices and non proliferation instruments and mechanisms.

6. The 2023 Strategy sets out the governance framework within which the United Kingdom implements the BTWC. We hope the model it represents can serve to inform substantive discussions amongst States Parties at the Working Group meeting on National Implementation of the Convention in August. A copy of the Strategy is available via the link in the Annex.

## **Annex**

2023 UK Biological Security Strategy (Online):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-biological-security-strategy>

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