Third Session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the BWC
4 – 8 December 2023
Side event:
Workshop on Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biological Risk Management
9-10 am, 7 December 2023, Room XXV
Organizer:
Global Health and Security Consultants, Geneva

Chairperson: Dr Anita Budziszewska
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Presenting by:
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Introduction:

Natural, accidental and deliberate spread of Biological agents causing communicable diseases pose high risk to public health and the environment. Such diseases are the major cause of illness, incapacity and death among human beings and animals. During last decades, public health epidemics and pandemics such as Ebola, H5N1, H1N1, SARS and MERS have all in turn caused millions of morbidity and mortality among people throughout the world in particular developing and low resource countries. They have also created huge economic losses including trade and tourism, in these countries. The sudden outbreak of the New Corona virus (Covid 19) and its rapid spread throughout the world which have caused millions of morbidity and mortality among the people and medical community providing their services as well as causing billions of dollars damage to the world economy, have proved the urgent need for capacity building in Biological Risk Management (BRM).

Moreover, low hygienic and safety conditions in hospitals and laboratories as well as lack of knowledge of safe handling of biological agents and materials have become a major source of dissemination of such materials among personnel and into the environment and consequently endangering life of the people.

On the other hand, there is an increasing concern about the possible of misuse of dual use pathogens and toxins as a means of causing harm or death in a population. This by itself needs special attention and effective planning to reduce such threats which if not managed properly, may end up with huge disasters to the communities.
In brief, dangerous pathogens pose high risk to public health through:

- Natural outbreaks of communicable diseases
- Poor laboratory and clinical conditions/practices
- Careless handling of infectious materials containing dangerous pathogens and
- Deliberate misuse of such materials to cause harm, disease, incapacity or death among populations

Therefore, the first and foremost priority in preparedness and response to such public health threats, is the capacity building in Biological Risk Management mainly through organizing training programs in Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biological Risk Management.

In this workshop, we will discuss the details of such training program.

A. Biological safety:
   1. Introduction. Principles of Biosafety and Biosecurity
   2. Biological Risk Management
   3. Risk Groups and Containment Levels
   4. Spills and Accidents/ Reporting of Accidents
   5. Sterilization and Disinfection in the Laboratory
   6. Safe Handling of Laboratory Equipment and Materials
   7. Waste Disposal
   8. Transport and Transfer

B. Biological security:
   1. Principles of Biological security
   2. Physical security
   3. Personnel security management
   4. Accountability of valuable biological materials
   5. Transfer of materials
   6. Information security

C. Biological Risk Management:
   1. Definition of Biorisk and Biohazard
   2. Risk Management Milestones:
      a. Risk Assessment and factors involved in Risk Assessment
      b. Risk Mitigation
      c. Risk Performance
      d. Risk Communication

D. Questions and Answers

 Refreshments will also be served

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