

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

AGENDA: DISCUSSING BIOENGINEERED TERRORISM AND WAYS TO COMBAT THE SAME

I. THREAT ASSESSMENT: BIOENGINEERED TERRORISM AS A DIRECT THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The Russian Federation recognizes bioengineered terrorism as one of the most serious and destabilizing threats confronting the international community today. Rapid advances in synthetic biology, gene-editing technologies, artificial intelligence, and data-driven pathogen design have significantly reduced the technical and financial barriers required to manipulate biological agents. Capabilities once limited to highly regulated state laboratories are now increasingly accessible to non-state actors, criminal networks, and extremist groups.

Unlike conventional security threats, bioengineered terrorism is borderless, difficult to attribute, and capable of causing mass casualties, economic collapse, and long-term ecological damage.

Developing states and fragile regions remain disproportionately vulnerable due to weak surveillance systems, limited laboratory capacity, and insufficient legal enforcement mechanisms.

The absence of effective global verification and the politicization of international health cooperation further magnify this risk, undermining collective preparedness and trust among states.

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND STATE RESPONSIBILITY

The Russian Federation affirms that international law already provides a comprehensive foundation to counter bioengineered terrorism, provided these instruments are implemented in good faith, without selective interpretation or political manipulation.

- Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC): The BTWC remains the cornerstone of global biosecurity. Russia reiterates its long-standing call for a legally binding verification

mechanism, including inspections and transparency measures, to ensure full compliance by all States Parties.

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540: Resolution 1540 obligates all states to prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, including biological agents, through effective domestic controls, export regulations, and enforcement mechanisms.
- 1925 Geneva Protocol: The prohibition on the use of biological weapons remains a fundamental norm of international humanitarian law that must not be weakened through indirect violations or covert programs.
- National Counter-Terrorism Legislation: The Russian Federation enforces robust domestic legal frameworks to prevent the misuse of biological materials, ensure early detection, and respond decisively to biological threats, in full conformity with international obligations.

EXISTING GAPS AND SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL BIOSECURITY

Despite these frameworks, serious gaps persist in global biosecurity architecture. The continued absence of a BTWC verification protocol, limited transparency surrounding high-containment laboratories, and unequal access to biotechnology undermine collective security.

The monopolization of advanced biomedical technologies, the restriction of scientific cooperation through unilateral sanctions, and the exclusion of certain states from international research initiatives create mistrust and weaken global preparedness. Biosecurity must not be transformed into a geopolitical instrument or a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Transparency, equality, and mutual respect remain essential for effective international cooperation.

PROPOSED MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS AND COOPERATIVE MEASURES

The Russian Federation advocates a depoliticized, multilateral approach to combating bioengineered terrorism, rooted in international law, sovereign equality, and shared responsibility.

Initiative	Objective	Legal / Institutional Basis
------------	-----------	-----------------------------

BTWC Verification Mechanism	Establish mandatory inspections, confidence-building measures, and compliance monitoring to prevent the clandestine development of biological weapons.	BTWC Articles V and VI
International Rapid Response Units	Deploy neutral, UN-mandated scientific teams to investigate and contain suspected biological incidents in a timely manner.	UN Charter, coordination with WHO
Global Biosecurity Information Exchange	Facilitate early-warning data sharing, best practices, and threat assessments among states.	UNSC Resolution 1540
Scientific Advisory Committee	Monitor emerging technologies such as CRISPR and AI-driven pathogen design and provide guidance to the Security Council.	UN-mandated expert framework
Capacity Building for Developing States	Strengthen laboratories, disease surveillance systems, and legal frameworks in vulnerable regions.	Principle of Sovereign Equality

V. CONCLUSION

The Russian Federation emphasizes that bioengineered terrorism cannot be defeated through unilateral action, secrecy, or selective enforcement of international norms. Genuine cooperation, respect for international law, and transparency are indispensable to global biosecurity.

Scientific progress must serve humanity, not destruction. Russia stands ready to engage constructively with all members of the Security Council to strengthen international mechanisms, close existing gaps, and ensure that biotechnology remains a force for peace, development, and collective security rather than a weapon of terror.