United Nations Security Council

Country: Republic of India

Agenda: Discussing Bioengineered

Terrorism and Ways to Combat the Same

-Background

Bioengineered terrorism represents one of the most complex security challenges of the 21st century. Unlike conventional weapons, biological agents can be engineered to spread silently, mutate unpredictably, and cause harm long after their initial release. Rapid advancements in biotechnology, including gene editing and synthetic biology, have increased both the potential benefits for humanity and the risks of malicious misuse. In an interconnected world, such vulnerabilities pose a collective threat to global peace and security.

India’s Perspective

India approaches the issue of bioengineered terrorism with a strong commitment to multilateralism, ethical science, and human security. As a signatory to the Biological Weapons Convention, India has consistently upheld its obligations and has supported confidence-building measures under the BWC framework.

India also recognizes the importance of preventing non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. In this context, India supports the objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), which obligates states to establish domestic controls to prevent terrorist groups from accessing nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. India has taken steps to strengthen export controls, border security, and regulatory oversight in line with this resolution.

Challenges

One of the primary challenges lies in the dual-use nature of biological research, where the same technologies that advance healthcare can be misused for hostile purposes. Existing international instruments often struggle to keep pace with the speed of innovation.

Additionally, disparities in national preparedness remain a concern. While some states possess advanced disease surveillance systems, others lack basic laboratory infrastructure. This uneven preparedness weakens collective security. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how quickly health crises can overwhelm even robust systems, underscoring the dangers of delayed detection and uncoordinated response.

The spread of misinformation during biological emergencies further compounds these challenges, eroding public trust and hindering international cooperation.

Proposed Measures

India emphasizes that an effective response to bioengineered terrorism must be cooperative, inclusive, and forward-looking. To this end, India proposes:

Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) by expanding confidence-building measures, enhancing information-sharing, and initiating discussions on practical and non-discriminatory verification mechanisms under UN auspices.

Reinforcing UNSC Resolution 1540 implementation, including technical assistance for states that lack regulatory and enforcement capacity, in coordination with the 1540 Committee.

Enhancing global disease surveillance and response, building upon frameworks such as the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) of the World Health Organization, to ensure early detection and rapid response to suspicious outbreaks.

Improved coordination with international organizations, including INTERPOL and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), to enhance intelligence-sharing and investigative cooperation related to bioterrorism.

Conclusion

India firmly believes that bioengineered terrorism challenges not only the security architecture of the international system, but also the moral responsibility shared by all nations. Treaties and resolutions alone are not sufficient unless supported by trust, transparency, and collective vigilance.

India remains committed to the peaceful use of science, the strengthening of international law, and constructive engagement within the United Nations Security Council.