



Provisional programme

Engaging public representatives in biosecurity and pandemic preparedness

Monday 8 November 2021 | WP1995V

To be held as a webinar: <https://africabiosecurity.world-television.com/home/english>

This meeting will be a launch event held online of a continent-wide program to enhance biosecurity. As the first host country to the initiative, we will focus our meeting on advancing and strengthening South Africa's biosafety and biosecurity system capabilities and its leadership role in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Africa-CDC Regional Collaborating Centre headquartered in Zambia, to prevent natural, accidental, or deliberate biological events. Discussions will focus on the need for comprehensive legislative action, adequate and sustained system financing, and strategic communications to build the necessary political will for domestic advancement as well as regional and continental leadership.

Meeting objectives include:

- Developing a common understanding of the methods required to prevent accidental and deliberate biological events given the risk environment in the Southern African region, including emerging biological risks, especially those posed by dual-use research and rapid advances in biotechnology.
- Enabling effective development, financing, and communication strategies for comprehensive policies and legislative actions using the Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Legislative Framework as a guide for domestic implementation.
- Advocating for the advancement of Biosafety and Biosecurity into a recognized professional programme through the establishment of a Regional Training and Certification Programme for Biosafety and Biosecurity Experts to build a workforce required for surge capacity in the Africa region.
- Identifying, minimizing, and removing where possible the barriers and obstacles to data and information sharing during routine and surge periods and developing

In association with:



legal and ethical public policy tools to gather and share epidemic and biological risk intelligence as a part of building regional advance warning systems; and

- Advocating for the building of strong multi-sectoral Southern African leadership to develop and expand regional capabilities to prevent and mitigate natural, accidental, or deliberate biological events within the context of Africa CDC's Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative.

In association with Global Partnership against WMD, Global Affairs Canada, AU, Africa CDC and NTI

Monday 8 November

1600-1615 (SAST)

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chair: Wilmot James, University of the Witwatersrand and Columbia University

Hon. Joseph Phaahla, MP
Minister of Health

1615-1625 (SAST)

Messages from Partner Governments

James Cleverly (video)

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom

Message on behalf of HM Government: HE Sarah Price, UK Chair of the Global Partnership Working Group, United Kingdom

Message on behalf of the Government of Canada: HE Chris Cooter, High Commissioner of Canada to South Africa

1625-1715 (SAST)

2. Keynote remarks

Tedros Ghebreyesus Adhanom (video)

Director General, WHO

Monique Eloit

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

John Nkengasong

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)

Sir Jeremy Farrar

Wellcome Trust

1715-1815 (SAST)

3. Impacts of COVID-19

This panel will provide a brief overview of the impacts of COVID-19, highlighting the need to invest in more robust one-health security practices to prevent future outbreaks that may be more devastating. As part of the discussion, participants will highlight these impacts as seen through their various perspectives.

Chair: Sir Jeremy Farrar

Wellcome Trust

Salim Abdool Karim

University Kwazulu-Natal and Columbia University

Bruce Gellin

Rockefeller Foundation

Máximo Torero

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

1815-1900 (SAST)

4. Importance of biosafety and biosecurity and international collaboration

This panel will highlight the importance of strong biosafety and biosecurity capacity as part of a robust health security system. The discussion will examine the importance of collaboration at global, regional, and national levels to ensure safety and security worldwide, as well as provide perspective on recent efforts by the Global Partnership to invest in Africa more collaboratively.

Chair: Trevor Smith

Global Affairs Canada

Alexander Hamilton

UNICRI

Einas Mohammed

United Nations 1540 Support Unit

Donewell Bangure

Africa-CDC

Hayley Severance

Nuclear Threat Initiative

1900-1905 (SAST)

5. Closing remarks

Wilmot James

University of the Witwatersrand and Columbia University