Provisional programme

Engaging public representatives in biosecurity and pandemic preparedness

Tuesday 9 – Friday 12 November | WP1995V

To be held virtually

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 though 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 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

In association with:
Tuesday 9 November

Africa CDC’s Initiative in Biosafety and Biosecurity, regulatory environments, and model legislation

Welcome and session overview
Issa Makumbi
Uganda PHEOC

1. Keynote remarks
Ahmed Ogwell Ouma
Africa CDC
Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh
Caribbean Public Health Agency

2. Africa CDC’s Initiative on Biosafety and Biosecurity
The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention will provide an overview of the Initiative on Biosafety and Biosecurity, highlighting recent efforts to rapidly strengthen capacity across the African continent. The presentation will provide an overview of these efforts and outline a proposed path forward for national legislatures across the Continent, stressing the importance of strong, consistent commitment on the part of public representatives and civil society.

Talkmore Maruta
Africa CDC (Senior Biosafety and Biosecurity Officer)

3. Parliamentary engagement and oversight
This panel will delve deeply into the need for robust civil society and parliamentary engagement and oversight for biosafety and biosecurity. As part of these discussions, panellists should outline concrete and decisive ways each constituency can impact health security and create a world more safe and secure from infectious disease threats regardless of source.

Chair: Ludy Suryantoro
World Health Organisation

[INVITED] Hon. Cyril Xaba
MP, Chairman: Portfolio Committee of Defense and Military Veterans, South Africa
Judith February
University of the Witwatersrand
Zibusiso Masuku
National Health Laboratory Service, South Africa
Chinwe Lucia Ochu
Nigeria Centre for Disease Control
### Wednesday 10 November

**Advanced warning systems, epidemic intelligence, and resilience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1400-1405 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and session overview</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>0900-0905 (EST)</td>
<td>Malebona Precious Matsoso</td>
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<td>1600-1605 (CAT)</td>
<td>WITS University</td>
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<tr>
<td>1405-1435 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td><strong>1. Keynote remarks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>0905-0935 (EST)</td>
<td>Chair: Malebona Precious Matsoso</td>
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<tr>
<td>1605-1635 (CAT)</td>
<td>WITS University</td>
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<td>1435-1535 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td>[INVITED] Hon. Enoch Godongwana</td>
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<td>0935-1035 (EST)</td>
<td>Minister of Finance</td>
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<td>1535-1625 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td><strong>2. Building and maintaining disease information systems</strong></td>
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<td>1035-1125 (EST)</td>
<td>This roundtable discussion will examine recent advances in real-time</td>
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<td>1735-1825 (CAT)</td>
<td>active disease surveillance systems and highlight the need for strong</td>
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<td>collaboration across the continent. Drawing upon experience and</td>
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<td>training, panellists should highlight the importance of</td>
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<td>developing advanced warning systems and integrating them into the</td>
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<td>health system writ large.</td>
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<td>1535-1625 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td>Chair: Chikwe Ihekweazu</td>
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<td>1035-1125 (EST)</td>
<td>WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence</td>
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<tr>
<td>1735-1825 (CAT)</td>
<td>Amanda McClelland</td>
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<td>Resolve to Save Lives</td>
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<td>1535-1625 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td>Dylan George</td>
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<tr>
<td>1035-1125 (EST)</td>
<td>US Center for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
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<td>1735-1825 (CAT)</td>
<td>Sam Scarpino</td>
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<td>Rockefeller Foundation</td>
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<td>1535-1625 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td>Kamran Khan</td>
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<td>1035-1125 (EST)</td>
<td>Blue Dot</td>
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<td>1735-1825 (CAT)</td>
<td>Rasmus Bech Hansen</td>
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<td>Airfinity</td>
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<tr>
<td>1535-1625 (UK-GMT)</td>
<td>Tariro Makadzange</td>
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<tr>
<td>1035-1125 (EST)</td>
<td>Stanford University and Charles River Medical Center, Harare</td>
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<td>1735-1825 (CAT)</td>
<td><strong>3. Importance of local collaboration and health security</strong></td>
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<td>This session will bring together community rooted leaders from South</td>
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<td>Africa to highlight the need for strong, robust collaboration as part</td>
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<td>of health security efforts. The discussion should incorporate themes</td>
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<td>such as community trust, national data systems, community</td>
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**4. Closing remarks**

Jonathan Jansen
Academy of Science of South Africa
epidemiology training, and whole-of-society approaches to ensuring health security.

Chair: Tariro Makadzange  
Stanford University and Charles River Medical Center, Harare

Lul Riek  
Africa CDC Southern RCC (Zambia)

Keith Cloete  
Western Cape Department of Health

Janan Dietrich  
University of the Witwatersrand

Moetapele Letshwenyo  
OIE (South Africa)

4. Closing remarks  
[INVITED] Hon. Zwelivelile Mandela  
MP Chair: PC on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

Natalie Mayet  
National Institute for Communicable Diseases (South Africa)

Thursday 11 November

Innovations in pandemic response countermeasures and the bioeconomy

1400-1405  
Welcome and session overview  
Isabella Ayagah  
Ministry of Health, Kenya

1405-1430  
1. Keynote remarks  
Chair: Isabella Ayagah  
Ministry of Health, Kenya

Trevor Mundel – via video  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Melanie Saville  
Coalition for Epidemic Prevention Innovation (CEPI)

1430-1515  
2. Developing a robust bioeconomy  
This panel will provide leaders in the bioeconomy and medical countermeasures space to present on their work, highlighting key advances necessary for Africa to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging disease threats.

Chair: Glenda Gray  
SA Medical Research Council

Julius Ecuru  
BioInnovate Africa

Vuyisile Phehane  
SA Technology Innovation Agency

Stavros Nicolaou  
Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa
3. Responsible innovation and good scientific practice

This panel will discuss the importance of responsible innovation and good scientific practices and habits to prevent accidents or deliberate misuse which could negatively impact progress.

Chair: Iqbal Parker
Emeritus, University of Cape Town

Rachel Chikwamba
Biosciences Unit, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

Morena Makhoana
Biovac, South Africa

Otim Geoffrey
SynBio Africa, Uganda

4. Closing remarks

[INVITED] Hon. Ebrahim Patel
MP, Minister of Trade Industry and Competition, South Africa

Friday 12 November

Welcome and session overview

James Harrison
Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom

1. Keynote remarks

Chair: James Harrison
Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom

HE Cleopa K. Mailu
Kenyan Ambassador to the UN Geneva. Chairperson of the BWC Meeting of State Parties

[INVITED] Hon. Thandi Modise
MP, Minister of Defense and Military Veterans, South Africa

2. Roundtable discussion

The panel will bring together members of the non-proliferation community, highlighting the overlapping challenges of laboratory system strengthening, bioeconomy growth, and the resulting security concerns. Discussion will highlight the role global systems play in mitigating potential risks but balance the need for economic and technological development.

Chair: Youssef Cherif
Columbia University Global Center, Tunisia

Daniel Feakes
BWC ISU
### 3. Call to action: taking steps to a better future

This session will focus on bringing the various constituencies together to highlight concrete steps that can be taken in collaboration based upon the information learned over the conference series. Priority should be given to legislative and community actions to ensure there is concrete and lasting support for biosafety and biosecurity in South Africa with a keen eye toward rapid domestication and implementation of the Africa CDC’s Biosafety and Biosecurity Imitative. However, commitments can (and should) go beyond this as needed.

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

**Boemo Mmandu Sekgoma**  
SADC PF

**Hon. Beatrice Epaye**  
Chair- Foreign Relations Committee, Central African Republic

**Peter Barcroft**  
Parliamentarians for Global Action

**David Harper**  
Chatham House

### 4. Closing remarks

**Hon. Pravin Gordhan**  
MP, Minister of State Enterprises, South Africa

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This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

Enquiries about participation to: Sue Wornell, Project Manager  
T: +44 (0)1903 817763 | E: sue.wornell@wiltonpark.org.uk

Enquiries about the programme to: Mark Smith, Programme Director  
E: mark.smith@wiltonpark.org.uk