

Bioterrorism: Applying the lens of COVID-19

Tuesday 30th March 2021 from 13:00-16:00 (GMT)

Background

The Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN) is hosting an international conference focussed on Bioterrorism. This coincides with the launch of a CTPN report on "Bioterrorism: Applying the lens of COVID-19" led by London and Washington DC.

The conference dives into some of the key findings, aligning with previous CTPN report recommendations, notably the need to further consider the use of CBRN(e) materials in terrorism. The conference otherwise precedes a strategic scenario-based exercise.

The CTPN work programme is overseen and governed by the CTPN International Board and its strategic partners. The Network and its deliverables are administered and facilitated by London Resilience Group, which is hosted by the London Fire Commissioner.

Aim and Objectives

The event aims to convene global stakeholders that have an interest in the counter terrorism agenda to enhance collective understanding of bioterrorism and its implications. It seeks to:

- Understand the vulnerabilities exposed by COVID-19 and how these may translate to bioterrorism;
- Highlight the threat of bioterrorism against advances in biosciences and technology;
- Consider how preparedness for bioterrorism and public health crises can be enhanced;
- Recognise the critical role of city planning, infrastructure, and operations in reducing transmission;
- Inform future priorities and the development of city arrangements, plans and procedures;
- Serve as a pre-cursor for a virtual exercise for strategic leads.

Joining Instructions

Microsoft Teams: This is a virtual event only. It will be conducted online via Microsoft Teams. A link to join the event will be shared with registered delegates a few days prior.

Chatham House Rule: Please note that this is a closed event, attended through targeted invitations only. To encourage open presentations, no outside media organisations have been invited and Chatham House Rule will apply. Participants are requested to respect the sensitive nature of the subject and confidentiality of the speakers and their presentations.

Other Notes:

- This is an international event with a range of nations, cities and organisations represented.
- The event will be conducted in English and there are no translation facilities available.
- The accompanying virtual event protocol should be followed to assist facilitation.
- Due to the number of attendees anticipated, there will be no question and answer sessions. Participants are encouraged to post their comments and questions within the event chat on Microsoft Teams. Speakers will be able to respond as appropriate using this function.
- Contact: ctpn@london-fire.gov.uk.

Order of Proceedings

Convened and facilitated by Alex Townsend-Drake
Head of Programme, Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network.

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| 13:00 | Opening Address |
| | Lord Toby Harris <i>Chair, National Preparedness Commission Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy House of Lords, UK</i> |
| 13:15 | Bioterrorism: Applying the lens of COVID-19 |
| | Dr Donell Harvin <i>Chief, Homeland Security & Intelligence Executive Director, National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency, Washington DC</i> |
| 13:45 | Advances in Biosciences and Technology: Impacts for Biosecurity |
| | Dr Michèle Gemünden <i>Senior Researcher, Swiss and Euro-Atlantic Security Team Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich</i> |
| 14:15 | Protective Security and Biosecurity for Critical National Infrastructure |
| | Martin W. <i>Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Lead Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure, UK</i> |
| 14:45 | CAVE: Reducing Biothreats through Urban Planning & Sociopsychology |
| | Professor Nick Tyler CBE <i>Chadwick Professor of Civil Engineering Director, Centre for Transport Studies University College London</i> |
| 15:15 | United Nations efforts on Countering Bioterrorism |
| | María Eugenia de los Angeles Rettori <i>Head of Unit, Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism</i> |
| 15:45 | Closing Address |
| | Anna König Jerlmyr <i>Mayor of Stockholm</i> |
| 16:00 | Close of Event |