

MEMOS ON INTERNATIONAL  
BIORISK MANAGEMENT NETWORKS

# The Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction

## Purpose

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The Global Partnership is a forum for likeminded countries. Its Biological Security Working Group (BSWG) seeks to address global biological threats by supporting a wide range of concrete activities designed to strengthen biosecurity and biosafety, and to enhance the capacity of partner countries to prevent, detect and respond to biological threats, whether naturally-occurring, accidental or deliberately caused.

Its key priorities are to: (1) Aid countries in developing legislation and systems for managing dangerous pathogens and research involving high-risk pathogens; (2) Support the implementation of international agreements and guidelines for securing high-risk pathogens and conducting responsible research; (3) Assist in the development of country-level capacities to quickly detect potential biological attacks; (4) Strengthen compliance and implementation of international treaties and agreements related to biosecurity, export controls, and dual-use goods; and (5) Promote best practices in research involving high-risk pathogens.

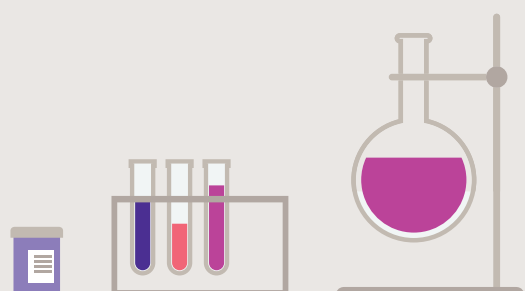
## Formation

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The Global Partnership was formed in 2002, in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Launched as a 10-year, \$20 billion initiative, the Global Partnership initially focused on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons counterproliferation efforts in former Soviet states and in Russia.

By 2010, the Global Partnership announced that it had achieved its project goals in Russia and that its projects would shift to international efforts aimed at reducing WMD threats globally.

The Global Partnership's Biological Security Working Group (BSWG) was established in 2012.



## Structure

The Global Partnership has an annually rotating Presidency and four working groups, on nuclear and radiological security, chemical security, biological security and CBRN security, each with a rotating Chair and Co-Chair. Germany held the Presidency in 2022; Japan in 2023.

The Biological Security Working Group has four sub-working groups: (1) biosecurity and biosafety; (2) national frameworks; (3) epidemic surveillance and intelligence; and (4) nonproliferation.



## Membership

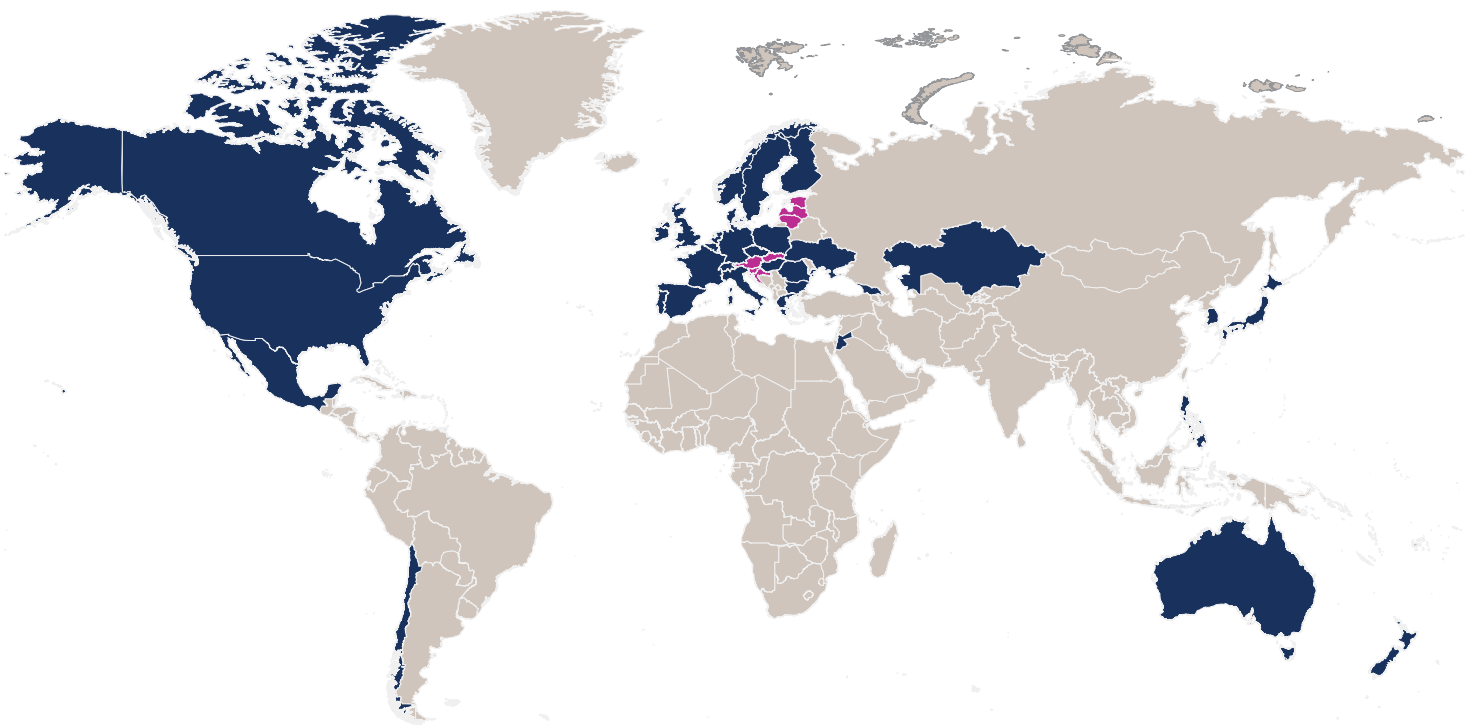
Australia  
Belgium  
Canada  
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Czech Republic  
Denmark  
European Union

Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Italy

Japan  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Mexico  
The Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway

Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Republic of Korea  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland

Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
United States



■ GP member countries

■ Countries represented by EU in GP

## Key Activities

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Capacity Building Projects: Funding for projects comes from the implementing countries. There have been several hundred biosecurity projects, with millions of US dollars in total funding for project initiatives annually.

Currently, the key thrust for BSWG programming is the 'Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa,' which launched in 2020 to create a sense of collective effort and to find synergies between GP members active on the African continent. In partnership with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Signature Initiative seeks to increase capacity in African countries on biosafety and biosecurity, national governance structures, surveillance and epidemic intelligence, and non-proliferation. Recent projects led by the World Organisation for Animal Health under this initiative include a laboratory 'twinning' program, training for national focal points,

and leadership and management training for high-containment laboratories.

Other major BSWG projects include: France's 'SecBio,' an international online platform on biosafety and biosecurity; Germany's 'Capstone Exercise' of the UN Secretary-General Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, organized by the Robert Koch Institute in September 2022; and Canada's 'Biosecurity Central,' a tool box bringing together different tools to share available resources and make them easily accessible, and 'Bioweapons Disinformation Monitor,' to counter Russian disinformation.

A set of commitments for future biosecurity work called the 'Berlin Lines of Action' was adopted in October 2022 at the Global Partnership Conference on Current Biosecurity Challenges.

## Key Resources

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BSWG website  
[gpwmd.com/bswg](https://gpwmd.com/bswg) ▶

Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa  
[gpwmd.com/africa-signature-intitiative](https://gpwmd.com/africa-signature-intitiative) ▶

Global Partnership Biological Security Deliverables  
[gpwmd.com/bswg-deliverables](https://gpwmd.com/bswg-deliverables) ▶

Declaration on Biological Security  
[auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/global-partnership-declaration/2556786](https://auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/global-partnership-declaration/2556786) ▶

