



CBRN  
**Centres  
of Excellence**  
*An initiative of the European Union*



*Italian Presidency of the G7 Global Partnership  
Against  
the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass  
Destruction*

**Under the 2017 Italian Presidency of the Global Partnership against the Spread of  
Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (IT GP) and  
within the framework of the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk  
Mitigation Centres of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE) Initiative**

**Pilot African Regional Conference  
Comparative review of biological threats needs assessments and national action  
plans implemented under WHO (IHR-JEE), CBRN CoE, 1540 UNSCR and BWC**

**25-26 October 2017  
Hotel Tour Hassan Rue Chellah, Hassan, Rabat, Morocco**

**Concept Note**

## **Background**

The G7 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction is a multilateral initiative launched in 2002 at the Kananaskis Summit in Canada as a tool to consolidate peace and international stability and to strengthen global security. In 2010, the Muskoka Summit reaffirmed the relevance of the Global Partnership as a critical instrument to facilitate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, as well as to respond to biological security threats.

The 2017 Italian Presidency of the G7 Global Partnership (IT GP) has attached considerable importance to the needs of African countries with respect to Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation and proper implementation of UNSCR 1540, focusing on priorities for biosecurity and biosafety. The Presidency has invited two African countries, as well as the African Union (AU) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to the 2017 Global Partnership session held in Rome on last 22-24 February. The Côte d'Ivoire presented its CBRN National Strategy and Niger described the National Action Plan to implement the UNSCR 1540. The two approaches received appreciation by the Global Partnership membership as good practices for national policies in the field. On its part, the AU highlighted its efforts deployed and results achieved in countering CBRN proliferation risks. The WHO described the regional coordination



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mechanisms activated in reaction to the Ebola crisis and underlined the way ahead to enhance capacities for disease surveillance and outbreak response.

As a follow-up, the IT GP and the EU CBRN CoE Initiative, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), propose the organization of a Regional Conference in Africa to further discuss countries' biological priorities in the context of the post Ebola crisis. The Conference will also provide an opportunity to discuss the policy orientations and assistance priorities, as identified in the framework of the Global Partnership, in the light of the needs of African countries.

## **Regional Conference**

The aim of the Conference is to address biological risk mitigation, considering existing needs assessments and action plans that have been developed in recent years within the framework of the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) under the WHO International Health Regulations, the Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), the Biological Weapons Convention and the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence.

The Conference will offer a comparative overview of the different voluntary country assessments and action plans tools as well as review biological security capacity needs identified by countries in the wake of the West Africa Ebola crisis, as for example (not exhaustive):

- Protection, control and accountability of high risk biological agents and samples at the laboratory-level (e.g. lab-inventory management systems);
- Protecting and tracking samples during transport, export/import and trans-shipment (e.g. shipping specimens for diagnostic testing);
- Biosecurity awareness raising and education for laboratory technicians and hospital staff, covering core competencies related to the prevention of insider/outsider threats (e.g. bio-risk assessment);
- Biosecurity awareness and education for national law enforcement and border security, covering core competencies related to the prevention of cross-border threats linked with porous borders and illicit trafficking, and
- Strengthening national and regional prevention, preparedness and response to emerging bio-threats (e.g. bio/agroterrorism).



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In the final session, participants will also discuss on how to align existing/future projects with countries' needs, how to reinforce coordination of existing/future projects and how to develop new projects to support countries' needs.

The Conference will be organized in **Rabat, Morocco** on **25-26 October 2017** in the framework of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative and with the financial support of the European Union and the 2017 Italian Presidency of the G7 Global Partnership.

The Conference will involve African partner countries, which have developed in recent years voluntary needs assessments and action plans within the framework of the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) under the WHO International Health Regulations, the Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), the Biological Weapons Convention and the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence.

Currently, the following countries from Western and Central Africa have developed plans in this regard:

- Cameroon (*Extended National Implementation Assistance Programme*)
- Côte d'Ivoire (*JEE, Extended National Implementation Assistance Programme and CoE CBRN National Action Plan*)
- DRC (*CoE CBRN National Action Plan*)
- Gabon (*CoE CBRN National Action Plan*)
- Ghana (*1540 National Implementation Action Plan and JEE*)
- Liberia (*JEE*)
- Mauritania (*JEE*)
- Morocco (*CoE CBRN National Action Plan and JEE*)
- Niger (*1540 National Implementation Action Plan*)
- Senegal (*1540 National Implementation Action Plan, JEE and CoE CBRN National Action Plan*)
- Sierra Leone (*JEE and Extended National Implementation Assistance Programme*)
- Togo (*1540 National Implementation Action Plan*)

The expected outcome of the Conference will be to create a positive synergy between the policy orientations and assistance priorities identified by the G7 Global Partnership and the needs of participating African countries. It will help to identify how International Organizations and members of the G7 Global Partnership can support African countries with financial or technical support and plan possible future activities.



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The Heads of the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariats of North Africa and Sahel and Eastern and Central Africa are to be invited to ensure Africa-wide consistency.

Upon evaluation, the pilot could be replicated in another region.

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in cooperation with

