

KAMPALA COMPACT: THE GLOBAL BARGAIN FOR BIOSECURITY AND BIOSCIENCE

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1. Promotion of biological sciences and biotechnology are fundamental to the advance of human well-being, development and security. The Millennium Development Goals call for the application of science and technology for development and emphasize the importance of collective efforts in this regard.
2. Biological science can also pose threats of misuse to develop biological weapons. These threats are inherently global. Because of the threats associated with biological weapons, biological science must be advanced along with a commitment to protect against its hostile applications.
3. Africans have played a major role in international negotiations resulting in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Africans are deeply committed to the strengthening of binding international law to avert development and use of biological weapons and can demonstrate global leadership in addressing these threats.
4. The potential devastation caused by biological weapons would be catastrophic for Africa where compromised immunity and poverty would magnify the impact of their use. Notably, Africa has witnessed recent genocide and conflict; biological weapons could have multiplied their horrible consequences. Africa is also potentially a fertile ground for obtaining lethal biological agents for producing and proliferating biological weapons.
5. At this time, Africans are grappling with enormous health crises in the form of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, emerging infectious diseases, poor health infrastructure, and food security. It is illegitimate to address threats of biological weapons without addressing these other health crises.
6. Biotechnology has great potential to improve health and agriculture, save lives, reverse environmental degradation, conserve bio-diversity, and stimulate economic development. Notably, the African Union Commission's High Level African Biotechnology Panel is preparing recommendations on how best to harness this potential.
7. To promote human security and protect against misuse of biological science, States should adopt and implement preventive measures such as the following, taking into account but not limited by international commitments:
 - a. Measures for laboratory, pathogen, and transport safety and security, including relevant monitoring capabilities and training programs;
 - b. Measures to authorize, train and equip law enforcers to detect, interdict, and investigate wrongful activity involving biological agents;
 - c. Measures to encourage national and local preparation and response capabilities, including strengthening public health systems, that can limit and mitigate the consequences of use of biological weapons;
 - d. National legislation to criminalize illicit biological science pursuits and enforcement mechanisms;
 - e. Partnerships among law enforcers with the biological science and public health communities;
 - f. Support reporting of suspicious activity and provide protection for those who report;
 - g. Measures to strengthen import/export, transit, and border controls;
 - h. Ethical codes for scientists with regard to risks associated with biological science; and
 - i. Definition of national jurisdiction and authority.
8. To promote human security and advance positive applications of biological science, targeted assistance and resources such as the following are essential:
 - a. Promotion of biological science education and African centres of excellence in biological science;
 - b. Strengthening of African Universities, research institutions, Academies of Science and other scientific networks;
 - c. Establishment of joint research and development program for vaccines and other capabilities to protect against disease with special focus on HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria;
 - d. Building of public health infrastructure and capacity, and development of preparedness and disease outbreak response assessment capabilities;
 - e. Disease monitoring, notification, and surveillance systems;
 - f. Development of public health communication systems within Africa and connected with global communication systems; and
 - g. Raising awareness and understanding of disease, whether deliberate or natural, through *inter alia* strengthening the capacity of civil society.
9. Measures to protect against the misuse of bio-science and assistance to promote human security must be inter-linked. There is a need for balance: Addressing biological weapons concerns inappropriately could undermine development of biological science and technology with catastrophic effects. Developing bio-science but failing to address biological weapons concerns could lead to catastrophe and undermine confidence in science. Addressing all these concerns in harmony is mandatory for human security in Africa and throughout the world.