Open Source Tools for the Assessment of Compliance with the BWC

Gunnar Jeremias*, Mirko Himmel, Jakob Hersch, Tomisha Bino

Universität Hamburg
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Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker-Centre for Science and Peace Research
Research Group for Biological Arms Control

INTRODUCTION

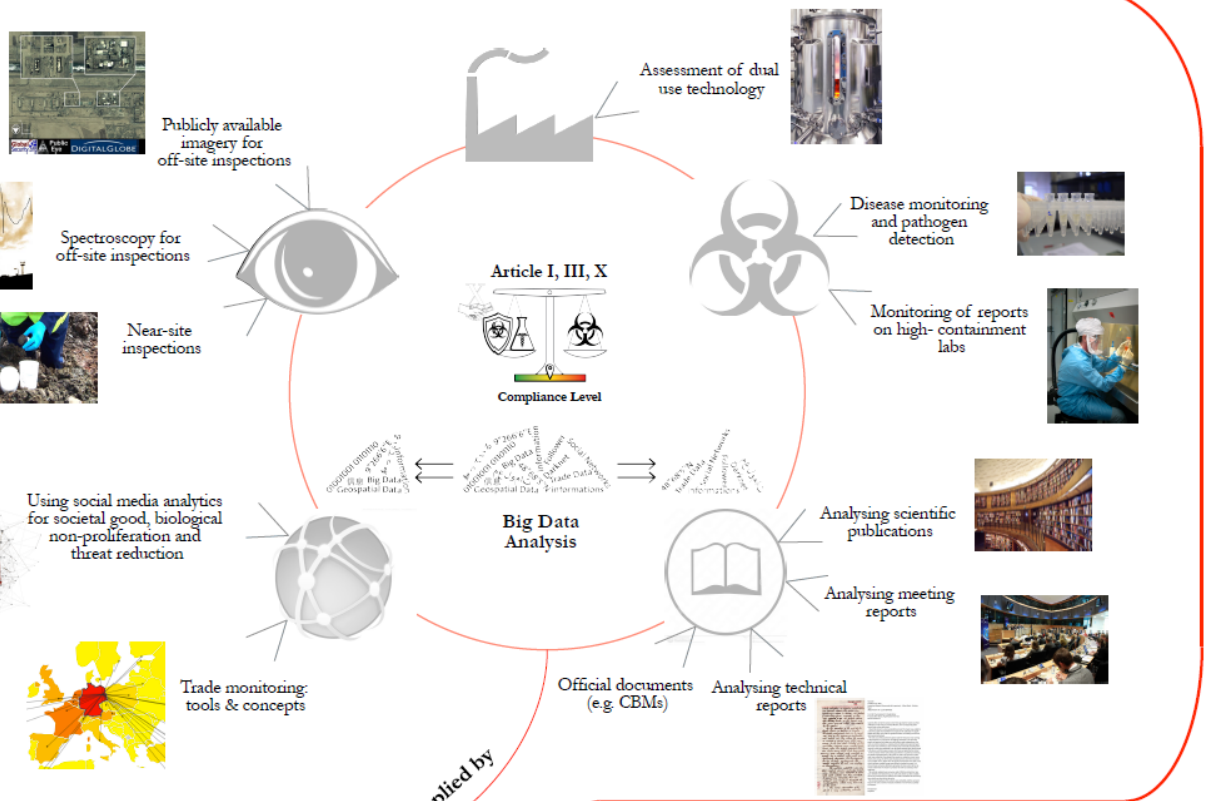
The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) was put in force in 1975 and is the first multilateral treaty aiming at the **prohibition** of an **entire category of weapons**.

The States Parties of the BWC agreed on several restrictions encompassing research and development activities for non-peaceful purposes (other than e.g. biodefence measures or public health preparedness). Nevertheless, there still remains the threatening scenario of the **misuse of scientific achievements** for the purpose of biological warfare or bioterrorism.

Therefore, this arms control treaty has a high demand for **continuous monitoring** of new developments in science and technology in order to provide an assessment of upcoming threats with relevance to the BWC.

Stressing the **preventive** aspects of **biological arms control**, it seems high-time to reevaluate originally proposed review methods and to develop new ideas with a special view on open source accessibility of information and feasibility of public analysis.

Resulting novel approaches for **enhancing transparency** will provide an essential contribution to **improved confidence building** in the context of the BWC.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Ultimately provide a tool box for a **preventive biological arms control**
- Assessment of **open source accessibility** of information and the feasibility of public analysis
- Development of **algorithms** for the collection and evaluation of data relevant to the BWC

Contact
Gunnar Jeremias
Phone: ++49 (0)40 42838-4383
Fax: ++49 (0)40 42838-3052
Email: g.jeremias@hamburg.de
Web: www.biological-arms-control.org

University of Hamburg
Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker-Centre for Science and Peace Research (ZNF)
Research Group for Biological Arms Control
Beim Schlump 83
20144 Hamburg, Germany
Web: www.znf.uni-hamburg.de

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