



Biological Weapon and Chemical Weapon Conventions

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Biological Weapon Convention (BWC) 1975

Formal Name:

- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.

Negotiated at:

- Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in **Geneva, Switzerland**

Prohibits:

- Development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of **bioweapons**

Members:

- **184 States Parties** and **4 Signatory States (India - Signatory)**

Significance:

- First multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**
- Supplements the **1925 Geneva Protocol**

Biological weapons use **microbiological agents (such as bacteria, viruses or fungi)** or toxins to intentionally cause death or harm to humans, animals, or plants.



Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC) 1997

Negotiations Began at:

- **UN Conference on Disarmament 1980**

Mandates:

- Destroying old and abandoned chemical weapons
- Members to declare **riot-control agents (tear gas)** in their possession

Established:

- **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** in 1997 to implement + enforce the terms of the CWC

Members:

- **192 state parties** and **165 signatories (India - Signatory)**

Prohibits:

- Development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer and usage of chemical weapons
- **Assisting other States** to indulge in activities prohibited by the CWC
- Using riot-control devices as '**warfare methods**'

Chemical Weapon is a chemical used to cause intentional **death or harm through its toxic properties**. Also includes **munitions, devices and other equipment** specifically designed to **weaponize toxic chemicals**.



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