

## **Call for Abstracts:**

### **INTERPOL Global Biosecurity Conference 2024, 2 – 4 July**

### **Deadline for submission: 8 March 2024**

We are pleased to invite you to submit an abstract for presentation at the premier of the INTERPOL Global Biosecurity Conference, to be held in Lyon from 2 – 4 July 2024. The abstract will provide a summary of a proposed topic to be considered for presentation at INTERPOL for this event.

The 3-day INTERPOL Global Biosecurity Conference will bring together law enforcement and partner agencies (such as health, civil protection, customs, etc.), biosecurity experts and academia from different regions and backgrounds to discuss biosecurity issues relevant to the law enforcement community. The conference will provide an international forum to

- Foster the dialogue between law enforcement and other sectors such as health, customs, scientists, policy-makers, and relevant regional/international organisations with a view to strengthen biosecurity;
- Discuss current and future biological threats that might trigger the involvement of law enforcement;
- Highlight good practices and challenges in the areas of prevention, preparedness and response to biological incidents, including bioterrorism;
- Define a set of recommendations based on the outcomes of each session that would support the law enforcement community's efforts to strengthen biosecurity at the global level.

Each presentation abstract should not only account for the specific session theme but also focus, to the greatest extent possible, on the specific session objectives set. The breakdown of sessions and their objectives can be found on pages 3-4 of this document.

#### **Important Dates**

Deadline for submission: 08 March 2024

Notification of selection: 26 March 2024

Please submit all abstracts to [globalbioconference@interpol.int](mailto:globalbioconference@interpol.int) using the form attached.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Submissions will be evaluated based on their relevance to the conference sessions and objectives. Presentations should ideally draw on lessons learned, best practices, and case studies.

It is the responsibility of the abstract authors to send their abstract to the Global Biosecurity Conference organisers in accordance with the instructions and deadlines. INTERPOL will notify the submitters whether their abstract has been selected for presentation or not. Submitters whose abstracts are selected should ensure that they have the appropriate approvals and authority from their agencies to present prior to the

final presentation submission deadline. Guidelines for abstract submission are available on the next page. For any queries, please contact us at [globalbioconference@interpol.int](mailto:globalbioconference@interpol.int).

# Guidelines for Abstract Submission

- Abstracts must be completed electronically using the attached PDF form and submitted by email to [globalbioconference@interpol.int](mailto:globalbioconference@interpol.int) **before 08 March 2024**.
- Abstracts shall be submitted in one of the four official INTERPOL languages: Arabic, English, French, or Spanish.
- The abstract is to be no more than 200 words.
- The presentation should not exceed approximately 20 minutes.
- Authors' full names and affiliations must be specified, with surnames capitalised and highlighted in bold.
- Handwritten text, images, figures, graphs, footnotes, references, equations or tabular data in the abstract will not be accepted.
- The abstract form must include a speaker biography of no more than 100 words in one of the official four INTERPOL languages (English, French, Spanish or Arabic)
- Due to a limited number of presentation slots, not all submissions will be selected for presentation; the outcomes of the selection process will be communicated by 26 March 2024.
- Presenter will be required to register for event attendance by 15 April 2024.
- Selected abstract authors will be required to submit their final presentation slides to the event organisers in one of the official four INTERPOL languages (English, French, Spanish or Arabic) no later than 24 May 2024.

# Session themes and objectives for Abstract Submissions

Each submitted abstract will have to be in line with one session and must address one or several of the corresponding objectives described below. Should you wish to deliver presentations on more than one session theme, please provide additional abstracts.

Session Theme	Objectives
<p><b>Biological threat landscape</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an overview of the global terrorist threat landscape</li> <li>• Explore current biological threats, both of undeliberate and deliberate origins that impact law enforcement activities</li> <li>• Discuss innovative solutions and good practices for the monitoring and/or assessment of the biological threat landscape</li> </ul>
<p><b>Critical infrastructure protection and targeted threats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe methods or technologies used to detect or counter bioterrorist attacks</li> <li>• Illustrate the benefits of biosurveillance and cybersecurity capabilities for the protection of critical infrastructure and soft targets, including ports of entry, health facilities and major public events</li> <li>• Explore solutions to mitigate the threat posed by unmanned air systems (drones) and by personnel handling high consequence pathogens.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dual-use commodities and research in the fields of biotechnologies and life science</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the challenges faced by law enforcement and customs authorities in controlling the flows of dual-use biological materials, including online</li> <li>• Discuss ways for law enforcement to prevent or mitigate the consequences of dual-use research in the fields of biotechnologies and life science, including through partnerships with academia, health and the private sector</li> </ul>
<p><b>Law enforcement roles and interagency cooperation in response to biological incidents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the roles and missions of frontliners from various sectors in the context of a biological incident response, taking into account the safety and welfare dimensions</li> <li>• Discuss the concept and challenges of joint investigations related to potential deliberate biological incidents</li> <li>• Present good practices and innovations in managing crime scenes contaminated with biological materials</li> </ul>

<p><b>Capacity building efforts to prevent, prepare and respond to biological threats and incidents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore innovative approaches to capacity building and training programming to strengthen capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to biological threats and incidents, including through an intelligence-driven approach</li> <li>• Discuss successful capacity building initiatives that contributed to the strengthening of national capabilities in these fields, and how they can be adapted to other countries or contexts</li> <li>• Explore how to better include the gender and diversity dimensions in relation to capacity building in the field of biological incident preparedness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Online contents impacting the bioterrorist threat</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how online content and strategies from non-state actors can impact the bioterrorist threat</li> <li>• Explore how law enforcement and partner agencies can mitigate the threat posed by illicit online contents referring to biological agents or toxins, or incidents, posted by non-state actors</li> <li>• Discuss initiatives to mitigate the impact of misinformation and disinformation in the context of biological threats and incidents at the global level</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tackling biological threats to animals and plants from a law enforcement perspective</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss priority threats to animal and plant health and their relevance for law enforcement</li> <li>• Identify ways of strengthening cooperation between law enforcement and the agricultural sectors</li> <li>• Explore challenges and best practices to mitigate threats to animal and plant health</li> </ul>
<p><b>Biological threat actors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the different types of non-state actors contributing to the propaganda, acquisition, development and use of biological agents and toxins as weapons</li> <li>• Study the nexus between terrorism and organized crime in relation to biological threats</li> <li>• Discuss the future impact of these non-state actors on the biological threat landscape and on the security, health and economic sectors</li> </ul>