Call for Abstracts

INTERPOL Global Biosecurity Conference 2026, 3 – 5 November
Deadline for submission: 22 May 2026

INTERPOL's Bioterrorism Prevention Unit is pleased to invite you to submit an abstract for the second Global Biosecurity Conference, to be held in Lyon from 3 – 5 November 2026. 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, international and regional organisations etc.), biosecurity experts and academia from different regions and backgrounds to discuss biological threats and biosecurity issues relevant to the law enforcement community.

The conference will provide an international forum to:

- Bring together experts from different regions and backgrounds to share insights on biosecurity issues relevant to the law enforcement community.
- Continue to foster a dialogue between law enforcement and other sectors such as health, customs, scientists, policy-makers, private sector and relevant regional/international organisations with a view to strengthen biosecurity.
- Explore current and future biological threats that might trigger the involvement of law enforcement.
- Share good practices and challenges in the areas of prevention, preparedness and response to biological incidents, with the goal of developing scalable solutions to counter bioterrorism threats.
- Define a set of actions to address recommendations formulated during the conference, with a view to support law enforcement 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: 22 May 2026
Notification of selection: 15 June 2026

Please submit all abstracts to 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.

Important Note

Please note that **the call for abstract** does not constitute an official invitation to the Global Biosecurity Conference. Selected speakers will be formally notified and will receive an official letter of invitation to confirm their participation in the Conference.

The excessive use of **artificial intelligence** to draft your abstract, which could compromise original thought or question expertise, may be considered a breach of professional integrity and may result in disqualification.

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

- Abstracts must be completed electronically (digitally typed) using the attached PDF form and submitted by email to globalbioconference@interpol.int **before 22 May 2026.**
- 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 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 submission form includes 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 **15 June 2026**.
- Presenters will be required to register for event attendance by **4 September 2026**.
- 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 **14 August 2026**.

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
Global biological threat landscape	• Map the evolving landscape of non-state actors seeking to acquire, produce, or use biological agents and toxins as weapons. • Analyze the current operational methods, technical capabilities and resources of non-state actors in relation to biological threats, including the way they access technologies and open-source knowledge. • Identify evolving threat dynamics related to non-state actors for investigative preparedness and prevention strategies, including propaganda and recruitment.
Indicators and early-warning for biological threats	• Raise awareness on indicators allowing prevention of and/or rapid response to biosecurity incidents. • Showcase integrated intelligence frameworks that combine health, customs, laboratories, cyber, and/or human intelligence to enhance detection and early-warning. • Discuss tools and platforms for real-time data aggregation and analysis to support proactive and intelligence-driven biosecurity responses.
Health and Law Enforcement coordination when responding to a biological incident	• Examine inter-agency decision-making processes, roles, and coordination mechanisms between, inter alia, health and law enforcement agencies during suspected biological incidents, including circumstances that may require activation of investigative protocols. • Highlight operational models and joint command structures that have successfully enabled coordinated field responses in real-case scenarios. • Discuss current gaps and solutions for interagency coordination in the management of biological incidents requiring a One Health approach.
Forensic examination of bio-contaminated evidence	• Outline procedures in place for the safe preservation and forensic examination of bio-contaminated evidence. • Present innovative forensic techniques for the identification, attribution, and source tracing of biological agents or toxins used in deliberate incidents. • Discuss training and capacity-building initiatives that equip forensic teams to operate safely and effectively in bio-contaminated environments.

Biosecurity at borders	• Examine integrated border control systems that combine customs, veterinary, public health, and law enforcement functions to detect illicit biological flows. • Highlight successful cross-border tools and practices used to target high-risk shipments and travelers. • Discuss challenges and good practices related to the identification of dual-use commodities related to biological weapons by frontliners at borders.
Science, technology, and innovation: emerging challenges and dual-use risks to biosecurity	• Identify high-risk dual-use technologies and equipment (e.g., gene editing, synthetic biology, AI-driven protein design) and their potential weaponization pathways. • Analyze how digital platforms, e-commerce marketplaces, and decentralized research and development are lowering barriers to biological threat development and complicating oversight. • Propose proactive risk mitigation strategies, including responsible innovation frameworks and stakeholder engagement models with scientists and industry.
Science, technology, and innovation: opportunities for law enforcement	• Demonstrate how new technologies, such as portable sequencing, AI-powered diagnostics, and rapid biosensors, are transforming field detection and situational awareness. • Present case studies of technology-enabled investigations that improved detection, attribution, evidence collection, or response speed in biological incidents. • Explore pathways for law enforcement agencies to access, adapt, and operationalize solutions developed in academic and private sectors.
Moving forward legal, policy, and information-sharing enablers for biosecurity	• Examine legal and policy frameworks that facilitate cross-sector and international cooperation in preventing and investigating biological incidents. • Strengthen and align national and regional biosecurity strategies to enforce global biosecurity norms, enhance preparedness, and ensure coordinated prevention, detection, and response. • Identify practical challenges and good practices in information-sharing, evidence exchange, or mutual assistance in the biosecurity context.