The need for an internationally coordinated set of measures for managing bio-risks has been at the forefront of the considerations of States Parties of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) for nearly two decades.

China and Pakistan officially submitted to the Eighth Review Conference of the BWC a working paper for ‘A Model Code of Conduct for Biological Scientists’ developed by scholars at Tianjin University’s Center for Biosafety Research and Strategy.

Through a series of international and inclusive workshops, Tianjin University, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) collaborated, also in close liaison with the US Department of State and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to adapt the China–Pakistan document into a set of guiding principles and standards of conduct, which both individual scientists and institutions active in biological research are expected to follow.

The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists were officially launched, and presented to States Parties BWC and elsewhere.

Advances in the biological sciences must bring about wellbeing for humanity and not be misused, particularly for the development of biological weapons.

1. Ethical Standards
   Respect human life and social ethics

2. Laws and Norms
   Observe domestic laws and regulations, international legal instruments and norms

3. Responsible Conduct of Research
   Protect the welfare of both human and non-human research participants

4. Respect for Research Participants
   Promote scientific integrity and prevent misconduct

5. Research Process Management
   Identify and manage potential risks of research with oversight mechanisms

6. Education and Training
   Educate and regularly train the scientific community on rules, norms, and ethics

7. Research Findings Dissemination
   Minimize biosecurity risks when publicizing scientific findings that could be misused

8. Public Engagement on S&T
   Encourage public understanding and interest in biological science and technology

9. Role of Institutions
   Ensure that expertise, equipment, and facilities are not used for illegal, harmful, or malicious purposes

10. International Cooperation
    Collaborate internationally in pursuit of peaceful innovations and applications of biosciences

Is your institution in compliance with all of the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines?