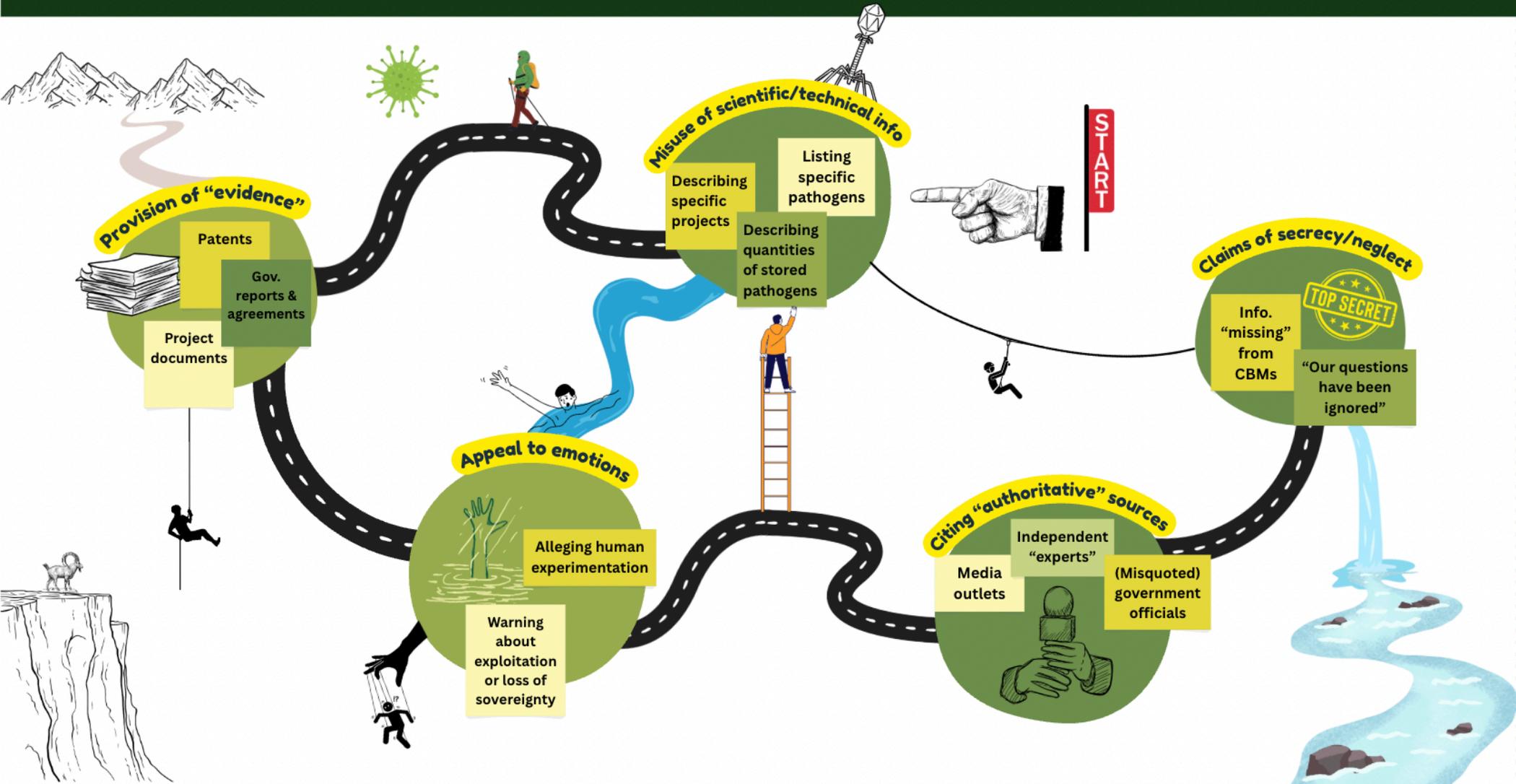


Roadmap of a BWC Disinformation Campaign



Misuse of Scientific and Technical Information:

Presenting inaccurate, irrelevant, or misconstrued scientific or technical information to substantiate false claims



What does this commonly used tactic look like in BWC statements and documents?

Statement by the Russian Federation at the 9th Review Conference (2022)

Statement by the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation,
Deputy Director of the Department for Non-proliferation and Arms Control
of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Konstantin Vorontsov
at the Ninth

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Review Conference
on item 10 of the agenda Review of the Convention Provisions, Article 1 of the BTWC
(Geneva, 30 November, 2022)

A Final Report upon Review of the Microorganism Strain Collection at the I. Mechnikov Anti-Plague Scientific and Research Institute in Odessa of 28 December, 2018, gives a most vivid insight in the scale and focus of these military and biological activities on the territory of Ukraine. According to this document, the Institute had 422 cholera storage units and 32 anthrax storage units. Notable is a large number of test tubes that contained the same strains of different passages. Absent mass outbreaks of these diseases in Ukraine in recent years, the range and accumulated volumes of bioagents challenge their alleged prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes.

Naming pathogens and listing their quantities or storage containers is a common tactic designed to elicit suspicion and enhance the perceived legitimacy of false claims.

This statement is misleading and inaccurate, as it suggests that these quantities, if accurately described, are significant and that there is some threshold quantity of biological material that indicates nefarious activity.

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation at 2023 Working Group Meeting

BWC/WG/3/WP.3

Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

28 November 2023

Original: English and Russian
English and Russian only

13. It is noteworthy that in addition to the unreasonable volumes, the very nomenclature of the studied and accumulated pathogens does not meet the main challenges and threats in the field of public health in Ukraine, where an upsurge in the number of cases of rubella, diphtheria, and tuberculosis is recorded. That said, it includes pathogens of dangerous infectious diseases that are potential agents of biological weapons.

14. In accordance with the Biological Threat Reduction program Ukraine implementation report of 27 June 2019, since the early 2008, 19 UP and TAP projects have been implemented to study human and animal pathogens. In some cases, the choice of pathogenic microorganisms is not related to current public health problems and can hardly be explained by preventive or protective purposes. The list of infectious animal diseases studied within the framework of this program includes severe anthroponozoonotic diseases, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, as well as economically significant infections that have a high pandemic potential and can cause damage to the agricultural industry, including African and classical swine fever, Newcastle disease.

This is another common claim, but one that is misleading, as potential agents of biowarfare also exist in nature and pose public health threats.

Describing specific projects and associated pathogens under study is another common tactic to arouse suspicion and inflate the legitimacy of false claims. However, in this case, the highly pathogenic nature of avian influenza suggests that it should be prioritized for research. Recent outbreaks of avian flu only underscore the importance of such work.

Provision of "Evidence":

Using reports, government agreements, project documents, and patent applications to generate "evidence" of nefarious activity



What does this commonly used tactic look like in BWC statements and documents?

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation at 2024 Meeting of States Parties

BWC/MSP/2024/WP.2

Annex II

Indications of a violation by the United States of its obligations under Article IV of the BTWC

(in terms of failure to take the necessary measures to prohibit and prevent the development, production and stockpiling of biological weapons)

- The Russian Federation has repeatedly expressed its concern and requested the United States to provide a legal assessment of the development and patenting in the United States of technical devices (US Patents US 8967029; US 8794155; US 9052175) from the standpoint of compliance with the conventions on the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons.
- For example, patent No. 8967029 B1 of 3 March 2015 was issued by the US Patent and Trademark Office for an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to release toxic mosquitoes in the air, i.e. for equipment (item) that is intended for use as a delivery and deployment means of biological weapons. According to the description, the UAV transports a container with a large number of mosquito infection carriers and releases them in a specified area. When bitten by mosquitoes, people get infected with pathogens of particularly dangerous diseases. The

Referencing U.S. patent documents is a common strategy to generate "evidence" of nefarious activity. However, in the US, the granting of a patent simply gives the applicant (who, in this case, was an individual not affiliated with the U.S. government) intellectual property rights over the product. It does not make the patent legal to produce or use.

Presentation submitted by the Russian Federation at 2022 Formal Consultative Meeting

Project documents from cooperative threat reduction activities are also commonly provided as "evidence" of nefarious activity. However, these documents describe activities that promote peaceful research and strengthen global security.

Metabiota's involvement in activities violating the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

Ukraine Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) Cooperative Biological Research (CBR) Project

Risk assessment of selected especially dangerous pathogens potentially carried by migratory birds over Ukraine

UP-4 PROJECT OPTION YEAR 2 QUARTERLY REPORT for the period 31 October 2019 – 30 January 2020 (Q4)

Prepared for:

Prepared by: BLACK & VEATCH SPECIAL PROJECTS CORP.

In collaboration with: METABIOTA

13 February 2020

David Mastra
Executive Director, Science Policy and Strategy at Laboratory Global Health, Inc.

Country Science Manager, Eastern Europe
Metabiota - Full-time
Jul 2019 - Apr 2020 - 4 yrs 10 mos
WFO, Ukraine

As an OCCASION Country Science Manager based in Kyiv, Ukraine I managed Metabiota's scientific based operations in Eastern Europe and contributed as needed to meeting company goals and objectives, both domestic and international. In addition to managing Metabiota's team of native Ukrainian-National personnel, my primary job function in Ukraine included serving as the Biosurveillance and Research Manager for Metabiota's work as a subcontractor, under the direction of prime contractor Black & Veatch (B&V), on the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) Biological Threat Reduction Integrating Contract (BTRIC) - Ukraine. As part of my role I served as a primary point of contact for technical matters to Government of Ukraine officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ministry of Education and Science, as well as to other international organizations and donor agencies operating within Ukraine.

Project UP-4 Study of the Risk of Spreading Selected Especially Dangerous Pathogens Spread by Birds

Metabiota was involved by the U.S. Department of Defense in modeling the epidemiological situation in the former Soviet Union. The participation of company representatives (M. Gutierrez, D. Mastra) in the audit of UP and TAP projects in Ukraine is documented.

Date of Modification	Modification	Person Responsible for Modification
03/02/2012	Initial submittal Revision 07 (Phase I)	M.C. Gutierrez
05/07/2013	Revision 01	M.C. Gutierrez
02/08/2014	Revision 02	M.C. Gutierrez
06/30/2017	Revision 03	M.C. Gutierrez
06/29/2018	Revision 04	M.C. Gutierrez
07/25/2018	Revision 05	M.C. Gutierrez
06/27/2019	Revision 06	D. Mastra

Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) UP-4 Option Year 2 Quarterly (Q4) Report

- Project Information
 - Task Order Information
 - Contract Number: HDTRA1-08-O-0007-0004
 - Project Title: Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) Phase I/II in Ukraine - HDTRA1-08-O-0007-0004
 - CBR Information
 - Project number: UP-4 Option Year 2 (OY2)
 - Project title: Risk assessment of selected especially dangerous pathogens potentially carried by migratory birds over Ukraine
 - Performance Period: Project Period of Performance - 31 January 2019 - 30 January 2020 (OY2) Reporting Period of Performance 31 October 2019 - 30 January 2020 (OY2, Q4)
 - Performing Organization: Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. (BVSPC)
 - Teaming Partner: Metabiota, Inc.
 - Threat Reduction Impacts
 - Develop risk maps of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) and Newcastle disease virus (NDV), which are especially dangerous pathogens (EDPs) carried by wild birds and domestic poultry in Ukraine.
 - Provide risk projections and track avian EDPs via Ukrainian and regional biosurveillance programs, with outputs reducing the economic risk posed to the regional poultry industry and offsetting the potential for spillover/trans-border infections in swine and humans.
 - Further limit threat posed by these pathogens by developing sequencing capacity for avian EDPs at multiple Ukrainian Institutes, expanding the ability to identify and contain outbreaks.
 - Enhance preparedness and response in Ukraine and the overall region by using project data and partner biosurveillance networks to inform public officials.

The use of the term "spreading" here implies that the project was designed to study how to transmit pathogens deliberately via birds. This is a misinterpretation of the project, which, in reality, was designed to study the risks to Ukraine of pathogens carried naturally by migratory birds.

Appeal to Emotions:

Using emotionally manipulative language or content to elicit feelings of outrage, fear, disgust, and/or anger



What does this commonly used tactic look like in BWC statements and documents?

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation at 2023 Working Group Meeting

BWC/WG/3/WP.3

Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

28 November 2023
Original: English and Russian
English and Russian only

31. Since the consultative meeting and BTWC Ninth Review Conference, new circumstances became known concerning the implementation by the US and Ukraine of their obligations under the Convention. In particular, it was confirmed by documents that the relevant US Army R&D institute – the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research – participated in studying the antibiotic resistance of microorganisms secured from the military men of the Ukrainian Armed Forces during combat actions in Donbass in 2014 – 2020. Within the framework of this project, four Ukrainian military hospitals located in various parts of the country studied 813 microorganisms received from 162 patients, and a full genome sequencing of 52 isolates was conducted. Such activities of the US Army Institute testify that in Pentagon, they see the territory of Ukraine as a potential ground for the deployment of military contingents.

Alleging that certain states are experimenting on patients or using their biological samples for nefarious purposes is a common tactic designed to evoke outrage, fear, and disgust

Note Verbale submitted by the Russian Federation to BWC States Parties in 2024

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ ОТДЕЛЕНИИ ООН И ДРУГИХ
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯХ
В ЖЕНЕВЕ

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

№ 288

Now the focus of interest has shifted to Africa. The United States Administration views the region as an infinite natural reservoir of dangerous infectious agents and as a testing ground for experimental medical products.

Thus, against the background of Russia's progressive strengthening of its positions in Africa, including in the area of biological safety and security, the United States is seeking to prevent its influence in the region from being diminished. In this connection, I would like to recall once again Washington's non-transparent working methods and warn our African partners against cooperating with the United States in the biological-military sphere.

Experience shows that such interaction results in the loss of national sovereignty in the field of biological safety and security and the worsening disease situation.

Another false allegation about medical experimentation and exploitation. These types of narratives can make falsehoods more persuasive by encouraging individuals to think emotionally as opposed to rationally.

Falsely warning states that engaging in cooperative threat reduction activities could result in loss of national sovereignty is another emotionally manipulative tactic.

Citing “Authoritative” Sources:

Referencing, quoting, or misquoting/misrepresenting sources with apparent authority or expertise to enhance the perceived credibility of false claims



What does this commonly used tactic look like in BWC statements and documents?

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation at 2023 Meeting of States Parties

BWC/MSP/2023/WP.1/Rev.1

5 December 2023
Original: English and Russian
English and Russian only

Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Seriousness of the situation has been confirmed by statements of Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary of State, during hearings in the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 8, 2022. In particular, replying to a question from Senator Marco Rubio about whether there are biological or chemical weapons in Ukraine, she informed on the presence of biological research facilities in Ukraine and expressed concern about the possibility of their transfer (including materials stored there) under the control of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. Such a reaction on the part of U.S. officials also indicates that covert military medical and biological research programs are being carried out in Ukraine, which does not correlate with obligations under the BTWC.

Citing statements from U.S. government officials is a common tactic. Often, these statements are taken out of context or deliberately misinterpreted.



In this case, Victoria Nuland’s statement about the presence of peaceful biological research facilities in Ukraine (which do exist) is being misconstrued as proof that there are biological weapons facilities in Ukraine (which do not exist). Her concern about the security of the facilities is also being misconstrued as evidence of nefarious activity, when in reality, it reflects a desire to prevent the misuse of materials stored in the facilities.

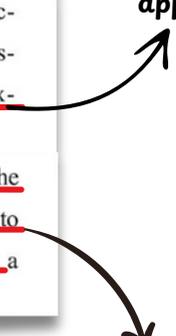
Note Verbale submitted by the Russian Federation to BWC States Parties in 2024

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ ОТДЕЛЕНИИ ООН И ДРУГИХ
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯХ
В ЖЕНЕВЕ
PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA
№ 288

It should be noted that the information on US biological and military activities on the African continent previously voiced during briefings by the Russian Ministry of Defense did not remain unheeded by the foreign media and expert community.

The online media outlet *Geopolitics* has published an article about the joint efforts of DTRA and the US non-profit organization *RTI International* to monitor infectious diseases in Africa, which, according to the publication, is a component of the Pentagon's broader "biological espionage" initiative.

In this document, “experts” and news media outlets are being referenced as “authoritative” sources. These references are designed to make false claims appear more credible.



The cited source is in fact a Russian outlet that publishes opinion pieces promoting Russian foreign policy. The reference to this article, in other words, can be thought of as the Russian government citing itself.

Claims of Secrecy or Neglect:

Claiming that certain states are not adequately transparent about their biological activities and/or not responsive to questions about those activities



What does this commonly used tactic look like in BWC statements and documents?

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation at 2024 Meeting of States Parties

BWC/MSP/2024/WP.2

Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

2 December 2024
English and Russian
Original: English and Russian only

11. The US annual reporting under the BTWC confidence-building measures, which were developed by the States Parties "in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions" lacks information on programs and projects conducted and funded outside its national territory (including in Ukraine). The Ukraine's annual reports also do not contain information on cooperation with Washington.

Claiming that certain states do not disclose relevant information in their CBM forms is a common tactic that is designed to arouse suspicion about those states' activities.

The United States has disclosed information about its cooperative biological activities in Ukraine (and elsewhere) in its reports on the implementation of Article X, as such activities fall under international cooperation and assistance. In addition, summaries of project activities carried out through the U.S. Biological Threat Reduction Program are required to be made publicly available.

Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation at 2023 Working Group Meeting

BWC/WG/3/WP.3

Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

28 November 2023
Original: English and Russian
English and Russian only

20. Ukraine fails to mention data on the ongoing since 2016 programmes and projects (including UP-4, Flu-Flyway and P-781) and funding by a foreign state's military department in its annual reporting under the BTWC confidence-building measures developed by the States Parties "in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions." This raises the question of a violation of political obligations regarding the submission of data on confidence building measures adopted by the States Parties to the BTWC. The US reports also miss the data on the programmes and projects implemented outside the national territory, or on the financing thereof. Our repeated appeals to the American side to provide exhaustive explanations for such activities remain without proper and meaningful response. Such reticence and disregard for Russia's claims on the part of the United States do nothing but support their validity.

Claiming that questions about compliance have not been addressed or resolved is another common tactic designed to arouse suspicion.

This statement is incorrect, as the United States responded to Russian allegations fully and in detail during the Article V Formal Consultative Meeting. These kinds of statements represent attempts to prolong the discussion of false allegations and prevent states parties from making real progress on strengthening the BWC.