

Role of Africa CDC in Supporting the Biological Weapons Convention implementation in Africa

Africa Centres for Disease Control Background



Africa CDC is a specialized technical institution of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

Administratively, Africa CDC is designed to operate a decentralized model that allows it to work closely with Member States through five of its Regional Collaborating Centres located in Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia, for the Northern Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Western Africa, and Southern Africa regions, respectively.

Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative

To strengthen the biosecurity and biosafety systems of African Union Member States to comply with international regulations including the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 and the GHSA action packages (APP3)

INITIATIVE GOAL

To strengthen the biosecurity and biosafety systems of African Union Member States to comply with international regulations including the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 and the GHSA action packages (APP3)

OBJECTIVE 1

Develop a Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework for the Africa Region

OBJECTIVE 2

Establish Regional and Continental Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG to coordinate and monitor implementation

OBJECTIVE 3

Establish a Regional Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Experts

OBJECTIVE 4

Establish a regulatory and certification framework for institutions handling high risk pathogens

OBJECTIVE 5

Strengthen NPHI and NRL capacities to prevent, detect and respond to Events of public health concern in each MS

Africa Centres for Disease Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative 5 Year Strategic Plan



The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative



2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan

Based on the objectives of the Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative and

Regional consultations and priority listing by Member States and Collaborating Partners

Ensures coordinated implementation of interventions in BSBS in the Region

Partners can Implement Directly Activities from the Strategic Plan

Africa Centres for Disease Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative 5 Year Strategic Plan

Enabling Priority Area

- **Enabling Africa CDC to form a strategic focus on biosafety and biosecurity and effectively implement and evaluate the impact of the BBI**
- **Establishment and operationalization of five (5) multisectoral and multi-expert RBB-TWG and a continental TWG**

Operational Priority Area

- **Development of an AU-endorsed biosafety and biosecurity legal framework for use across AU Member States**
- **Establishment of a regulatory and certification framework for institutions handling High Consequence Agents and Toxins, or HCAT)**
- **Establishment of a regional training and certification program for biosafety and biosecurity experts**

Legal Framework

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

THE REGIONAL BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY LEGAL FRAMEWORK



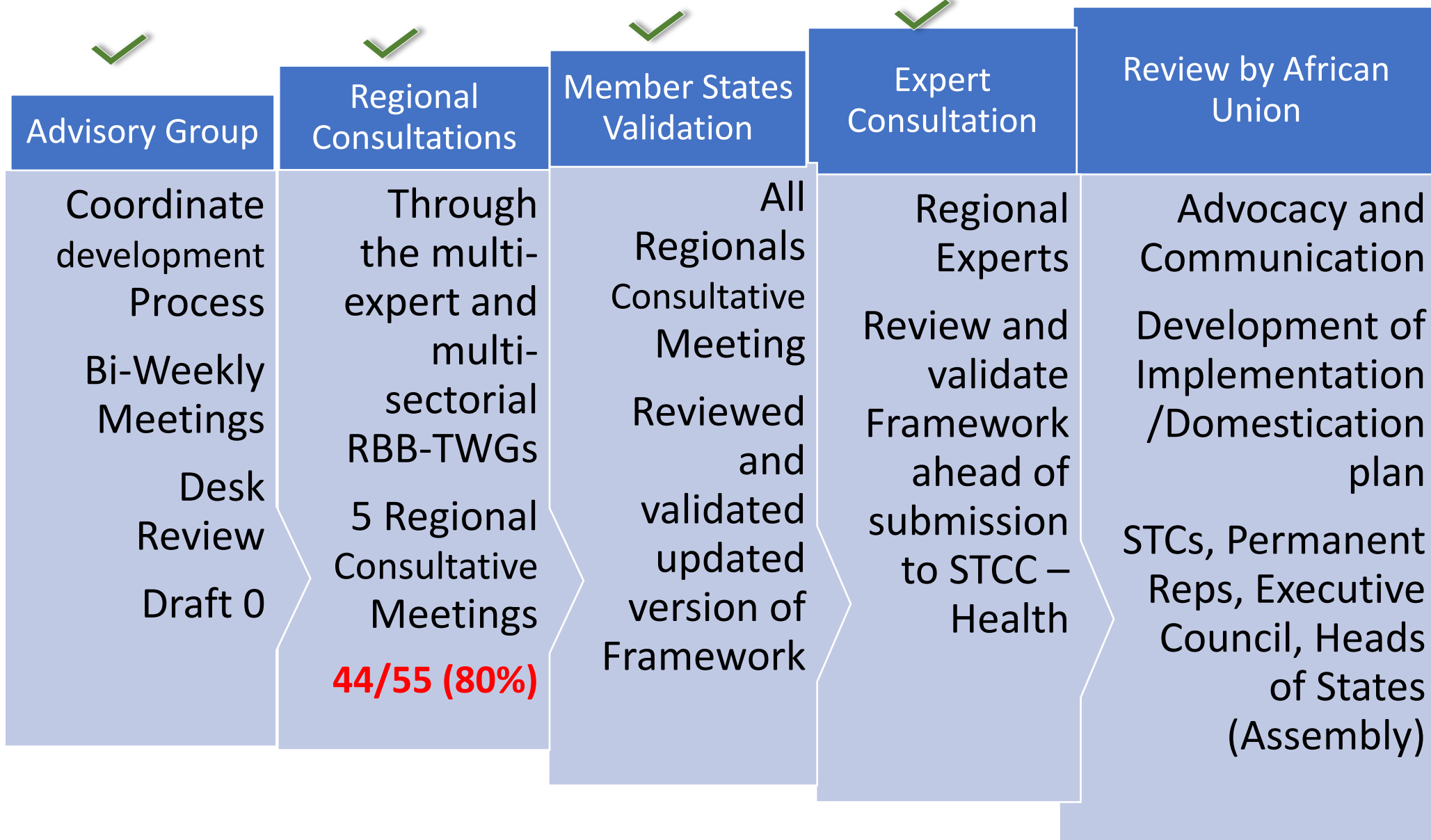
FOR THE AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES

2021

July 2020 - May 2021

May 2021 - February 2022

**Multi-staged
Consultative
Iterative
Process**



Domain 1

- Authorization of Lead Entity Responsible for Regulating Biosafety and Biosecurity

Domain 2

- Development of National Standards for Biosafety and Biosecurity

**Domain
7**

Prohibition of all Activities in the Development, Possession, and Transfer of Biological Agents for the Purpose of Producing Weapons

- Prohibition of all Activities in the Development, Possession, and Transfer of Biological Agents for the Purpose of Producing Weapons

Anticipated Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Domain 7: Prohibition of all Activities in the Development, Possession, and Transfer of Biological Agents for the Purpose of Producing Weapons

7.1 The prohibition of the misuse of biological agents and toxins. This includes establishing mechanisms for offences and penalties for the;

7.1.1 Violation of the prohibition to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire, retain or use (i) biological agents or toxins that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes (ii) weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

7.1.2 Violation of the prohibition to transfer to any recipient whatsoever the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery specified in 7.1.1

7.1.3 Assistance, encouragement or inducement in any way to commit the offences referred to in 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 and for other ancillary offences.

Support National Implementation

- **In collaboration with the BWC Implementation Support Unit support**
 - Adoption/adaptation of the Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework
 - (i) Review of existing BSBS legislation to inform next steps
 - (ii) Training on BSBS Legal Framework
 - (iii) Drafting/Updating of national legislation in alignment with BSBS Framework

Support National Implementation

- **In collaboration with the BWC Implementation Support Unit support**
 - Support Member States in the process of ratification of the BWC
 - Requests for official nominations of National Focal Persons for the BWC
 - Advocacy, awareness, training and capacity building of National Focal Persons, civil society, academia, political figures on BWC domestic implementation aspects

THANK YOU!

