



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL
of PUBLIC HEALTH

**Center for
Health Security**



**Global Forum on
Scientific Advances
Important to the
BWC**

JOHNS HOPKINS CENTER FOR HEALTH SECURITY

2nd Annual Global Forum on Scientific Advances Important to the BWC

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Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Good morning, and welcome, everyone, to the 2nd Annual Global Forum on Scientific Advances Important to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC). We are so pleased to be back at the Palais des Nations and the BWC Meeting of States Parties. We have a tremendous group of scientists and policy experts from around the world, including all three BWC Regional Groups, and we are excited for the opportunity to discuss the cutting-edge technical advances and complex policy challenges facing the BWC.

When we hosted the inaugural Global Forum last year, we aimed to facilitate engagement between scientists and diplomats with two principal goals in mind. First, to help inform BWC delegations on emerging and future developments in biology and biotechnology. By providing a platform for leading technical experts to describe their work and the state of capabilities in their field, we can provide critical information for BWC delegations as they work collectively to strengthen the BWC and to identify policies and mechanisms to improve the treaty's ability to adapt to emerging capabilities and threats. Additionally, the Global Forum provides an opportunity for scientists around the world to learn more about the BWC and associated nonproliferation norms. We hope that these experts will share their experiences with scientific colleagues back at their home research institutions in order to improve awareness of and support for the BWC and nonproliferation norms in the global scientific community.

I am joined this morning by Ms. Anja Kasperson, Director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and His Excellency Ambassador Yann Hwang, Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament and Chair of the 2019 BWC Meeting of States Parties. I would like to thank both of them for taking time out of their busy schedules this week

to provide some brief remarks on the critical importance of advancements in science and technology for the BWC and the role of scientific engagement in developing effective nonproliferation policies. I would also like to thank UNODA for co-sponsoring this year's Global Forum. Judging by the attendance in the room first thing this morning, this is already proving to be a very fruitful partnership, and we are excited to move forward in collaboration with UNODA to expand the reach and impact of the Global Forum in the coming years.

Without further ado, I would like to hand the floor over to Miss Kaspersen and Ambassador Hwang. Thank you.