Summary on the Symposium and the Biological Training Course held in Qatar

Under the auspices of His Excellency Lt. Gen. Staff (Pilot) Ghanem Bin Shaheen Al Ghanem, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW) held the following two events, through the Doha Regional Centre for CBRN training:

1. A Symposium on the Prevention of Biological Weapons Proliferation and Biological Terrorism, during the period 3-4 April 2017. A number of experts from inside and outside the country attended the event to cover aspects related to the Biological Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Law No. (4) of 2016. It comprises the establishment of a national team of specialists to address biological disasters, at the national level to respond to emergencies, and be prepared against any attack with biological weapons. A total of 43 specialists from state ministries and institutions participated in the Symposium. A series of lectures were presented by international (4) and local (1) experts.

2. A training Workshop for the Future Biological Weapons Monitoring Verification and Inspection of Inspectors in the State of Qatar, during the period 5-6 April 2017. The workshop was attended by a total of 29 specialists from ministries and state institutions. A number of lectures were presented by international (4) and local (2) experts. The training had the following goals:

   a. To understand basic knowledge of the characteristics of bioterrorism agents;
   
   b. To stand ready for deployment 'Qatar Biological Weapons Laws' through the following:

      1. Build capabilities of highly qualified inspectors to fulfil one of the NCPW mission, to keep the world free from the threat of biological weapons.
      2. To demonstrate a remarkable commitment and readiness, to train them to take on the most challenging tasks such as working in risky areas and identifying the present biological agents.
      3. Train inspectors to verify the activities of biological industry, in accordance with the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

The workshop was conducted by international and local specialists with expertise in the control, prevention and rapid detection of dangerous bacterial pathogens, warfare and bio-terrorism in today's world. In addition to incident control and response coordination, topics covered the response to biological incidents and the ability of the health care sector to provide the necessary medical care. Additionally, a tabletop exercise was conducted with scenarios of potential risks and how to deal with them.

NCPW's experts have also explained the Qatar biological law.
The Experts of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW)-QATAR:

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Deputy Chairman of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW)

✓ First Lieutenant I Abdu laziz Hamdan AL-AHMAD
General Secretary of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons (NCPW)

✓ Dr. Jameela Ali AL-AJMI
Member of NCPW, Representative of Hamad Medical Corporation Head of BWC working group

✓ Mr. Ahmed Ismaiel AFIFI
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International Experts:

- Sharon Medcalf, PhD  
  Director, Center for Biosecurity, Biopreparedness, and Emerging Infectious Diseases  
  Director of Education, National Center for Health Security and Biopreparedness  
  Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion, Social, and Behavioral Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health

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