

Dual use in the biological science and Brazilian Initiatives: Pronabens
Giane A. Petrocchi dos Santos
Agência Brasileira de Inteligência - Abin

Goods and dual-use technologies in the biological area are the focus of concern for possible employment as a weapon of mass destruction. Rapid advances in biotechnology are characterized by the duality between the benefits they could bring to mankind, from curing diseases to increased food supply, and increased risk of the use of engineered biological agents as weapons. In this sense, there are growing discussions about the ethical limits related to biological research in the area and the initiatives of Nations to control the use of scientific and technological achievements. Sensitive to this issue, Brazil has developed the National Programme in the area of sensitive goods (Programa Nacional Estado-Empresa na Área de Bens Sensíveis – Pronabens), a pioneering initiative which aims to disseminate information about the commitments made by the country as well as alert the public to the risks of misuse of these assets can bring.