



Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative

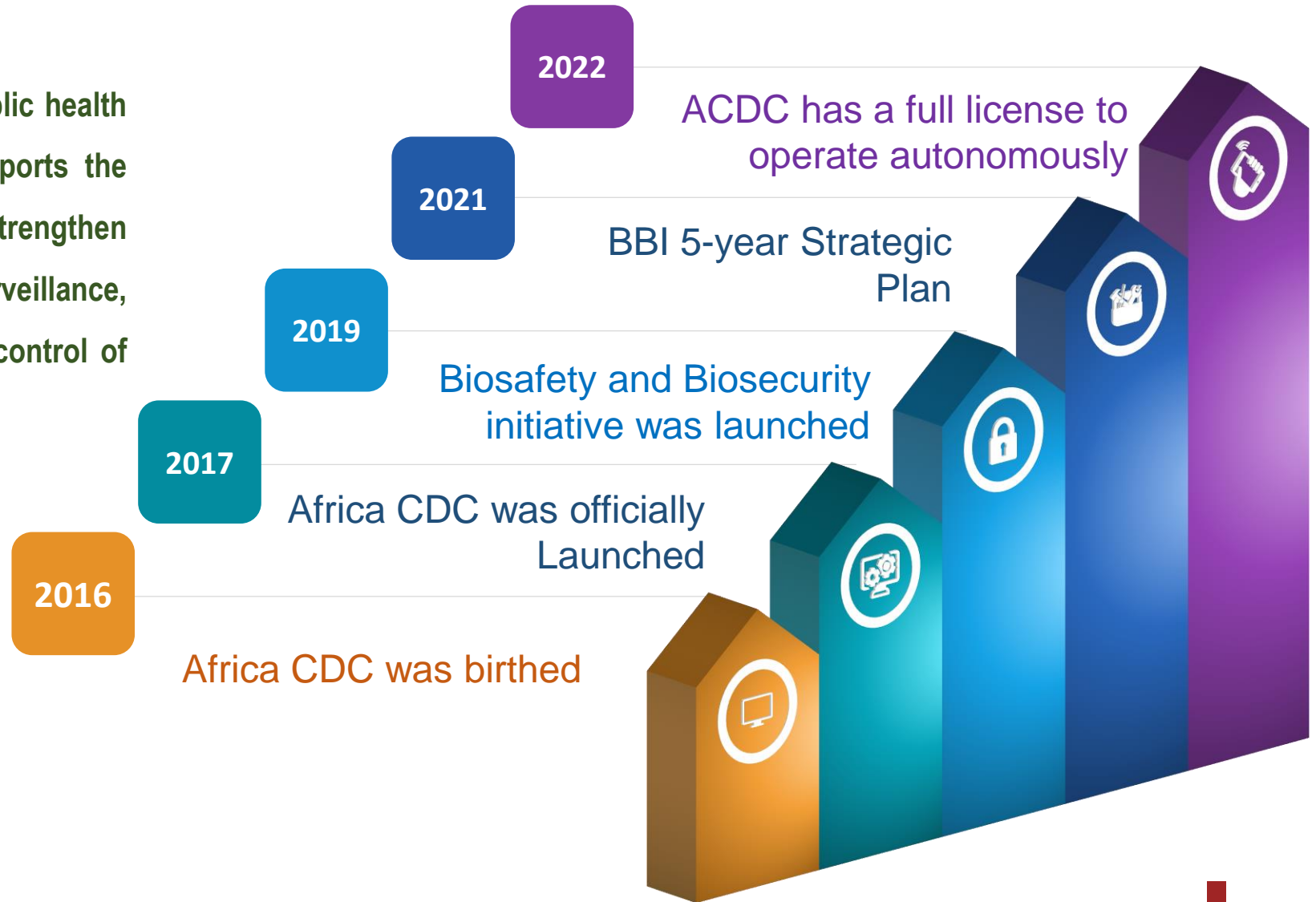
Ali Asy, Ph.D.
Chair of Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity
Technical Working Group in North Africa,
Africa CDC

International Conference of the Egyptian Society for Infection Control
Tolip Hotel, North Coast, Egypt | November 4, 2022

<http://www.africacdc.org>

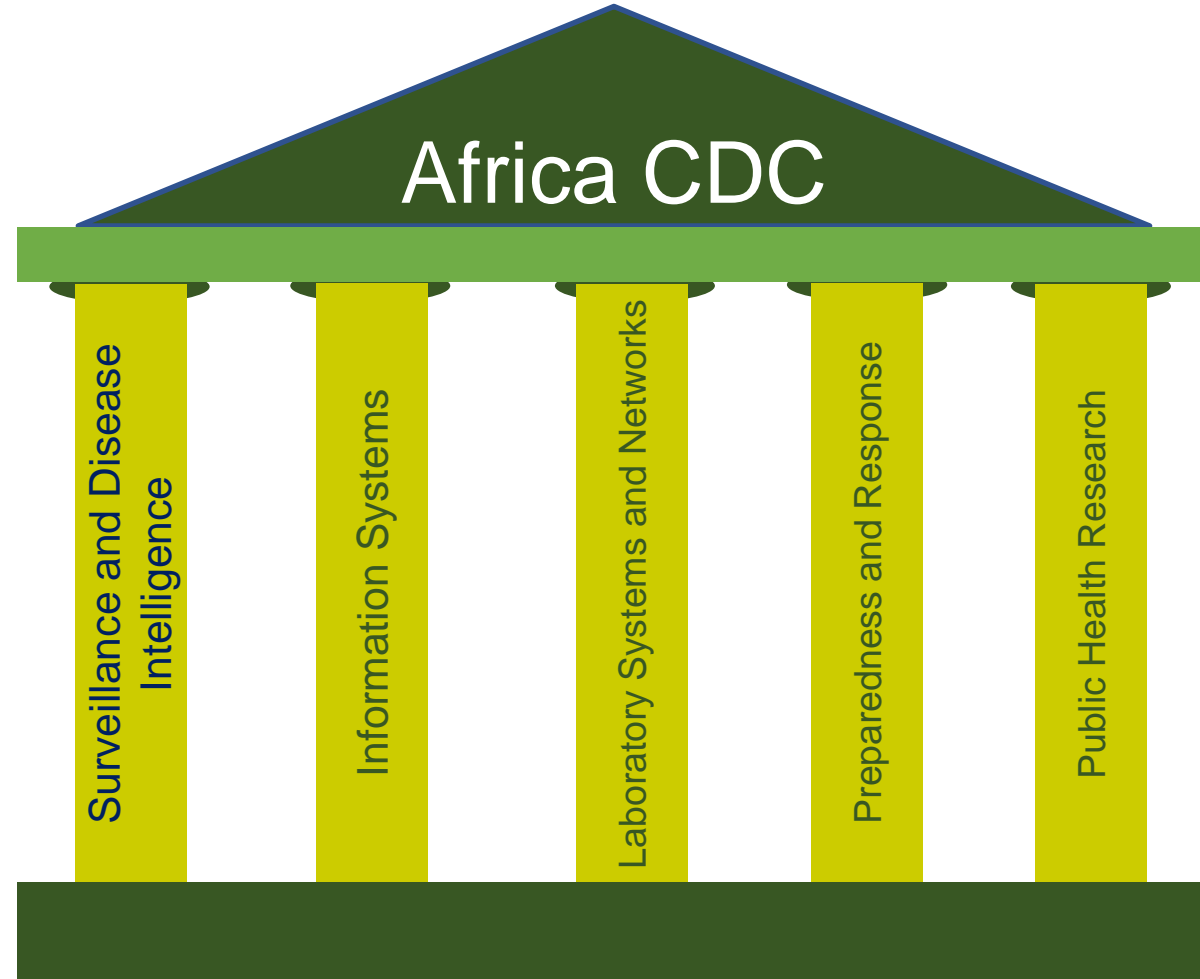
Africa CDC Background

Africa CDC (ACDC) is a specialized public health agency of the African Union that supports the Member States in their efforts to strengthen health systems and improve surveillance, emergency response, prevention, and control of diseases.

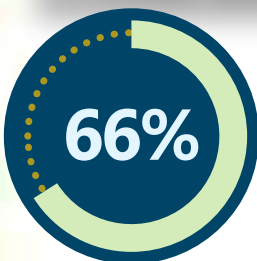


Africa CDC 5 Pillars

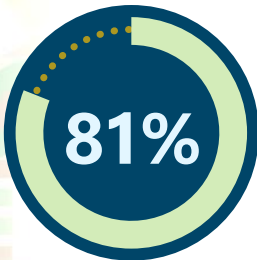
1. Surveillance and Disease Intelligence
2. Information Systems
3. Laboratory Systems and Networks
4. Preparedness and Response
5. Public Health Research



The Global Health Security Index, 2019



No policies for biosafety

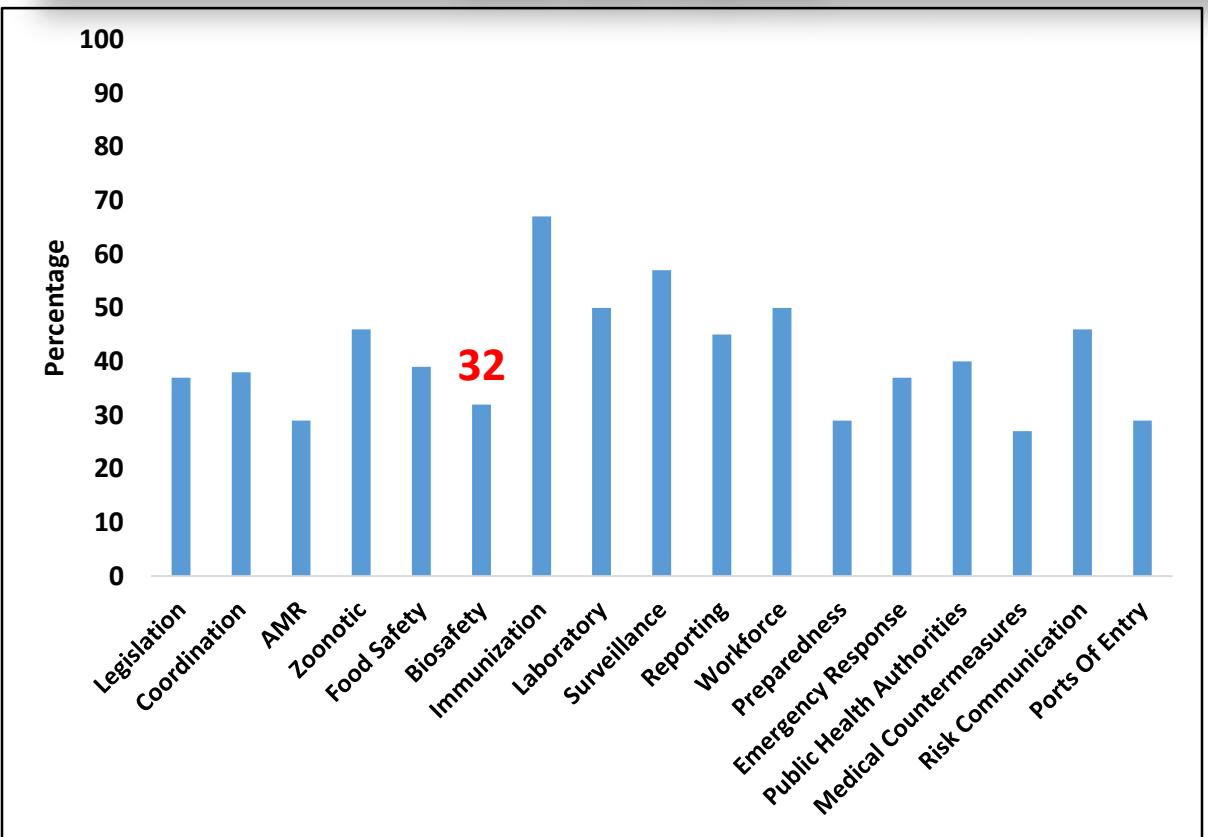


No policies for biosecurity



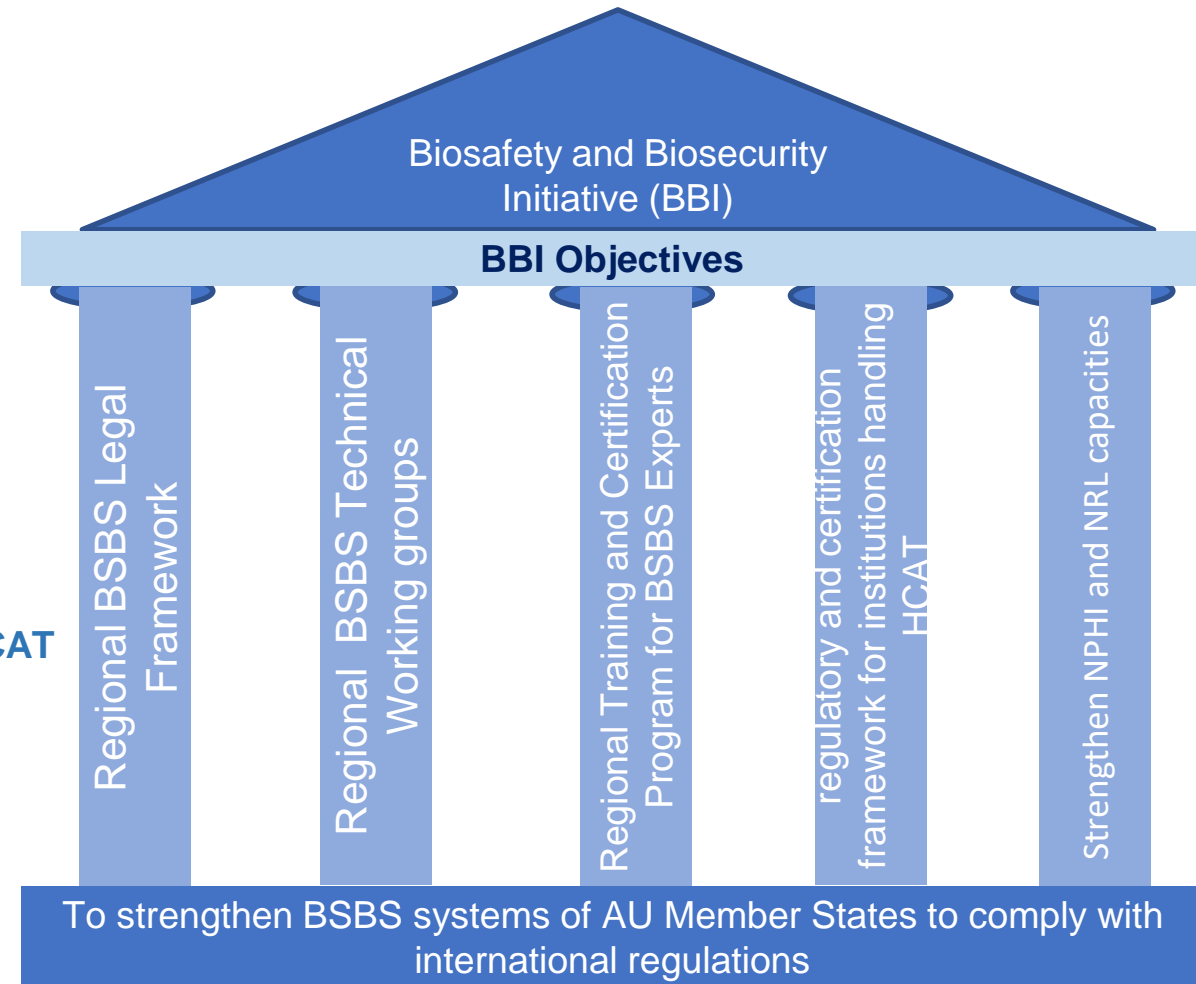
No oversight for DURC

WHO JEE Reports



Innovative Regional Approaches required to mitigate the identified gaps and vulnerabilities

1. Regional BSBS Legal Framework
2. Regional BSBS Technical Working groups
3. Regional Training and Certification Program for BSBS Experts
4. Regulatory and certification framework for institutions handling HCAT
5. Strengthen NPHI and NRL capacities

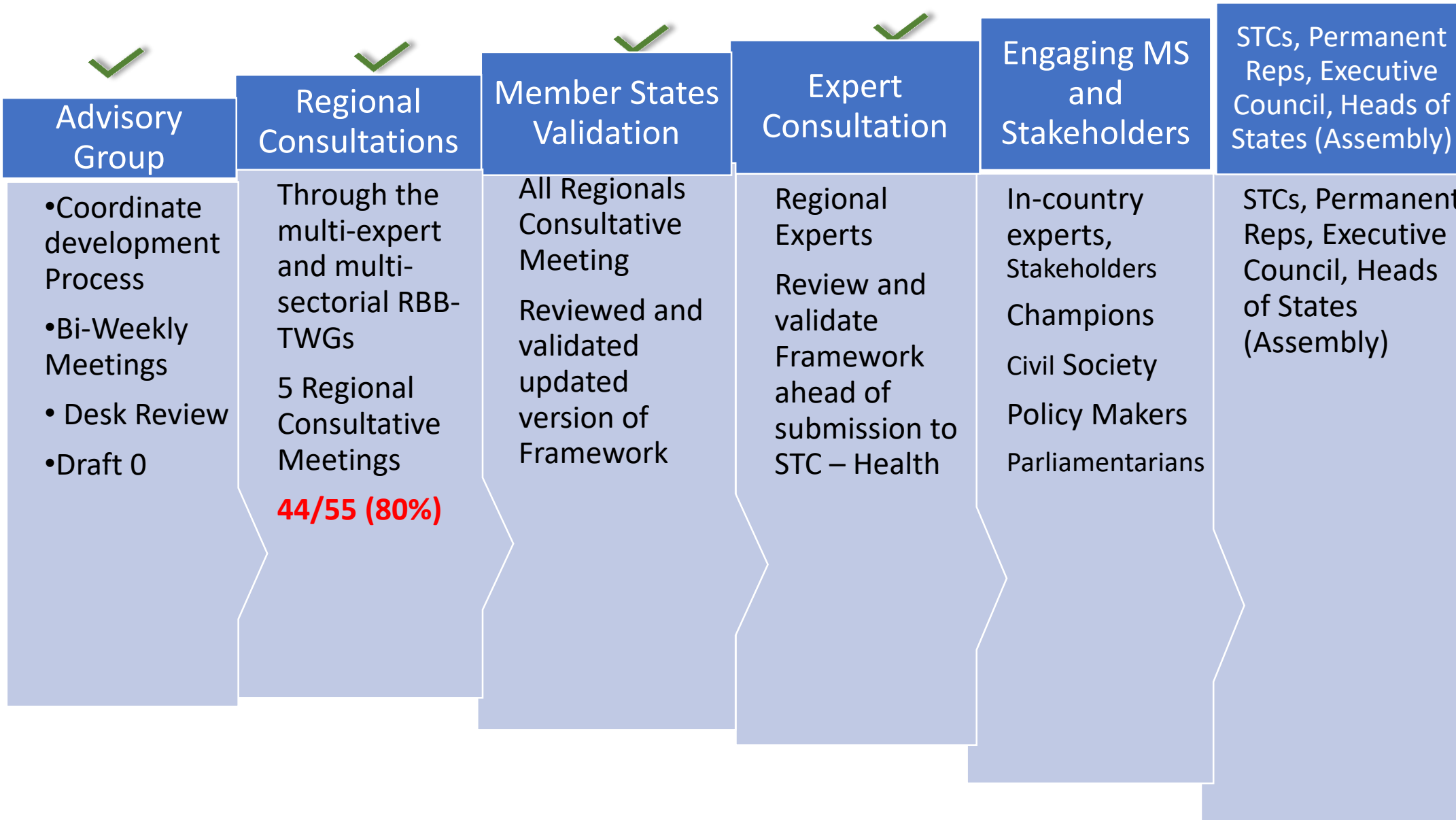


Multi-staged Consultative Iterative Process

Framework Development July 2020 - May 2021

May – October 2021 Advocacy

Nov 2021- March 2022 Adoption by AU



Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework for the Africa Region

Domain 1

- Authorization of **Lead Entity** Responsible for Regulating Biosafety and Biosecurity

Domain 2

- Development of **National Standards** for Biosafety and Biosecurity

Domain 3

- Authority for Biological **Risk Assessment** of Agents and Toxins

Domain 4

- Regulation of Laboratory and Facility Level Requirements for Handling **Agents and Toxins of Concern**

Domain 5

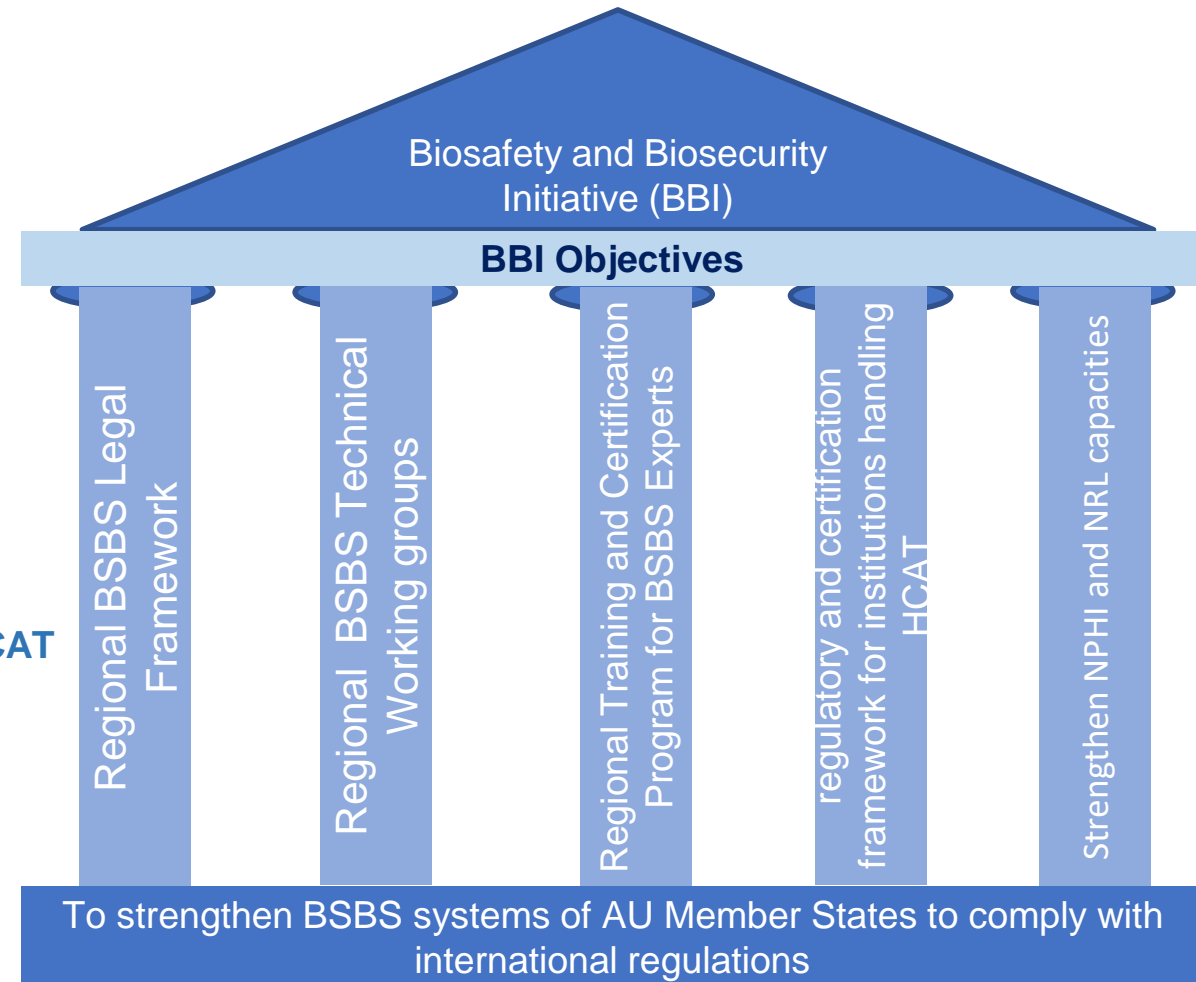
- Education, **Training**, and Human Resource Requirements for Personnel who Possess, Use, Store, or Transfer Agents and Toxins of Concern

Domain 6

- **Transfer, Storage, and Disposal** of Agents and Toxins of Concern

Anticipated Challenges and Proposed Solutions

1. Regional BSBS Legal Framework
2. Regional BSBS **Technical Working** groups
3. Regional Training and **Certification Program** for BSBS Experts
4. Regulatory and certification framework for **institutions handling HCAT**
5. Strengthen **NPHI** and NRL capacities



Continental Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG

Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG
Central

Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG
East

Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG
North

Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG
South

Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG
West

- Burundi
- Cameroon
- CAR
- Chad
- Congo
- DRC
- Guinea
- Gabon
- São Tomé

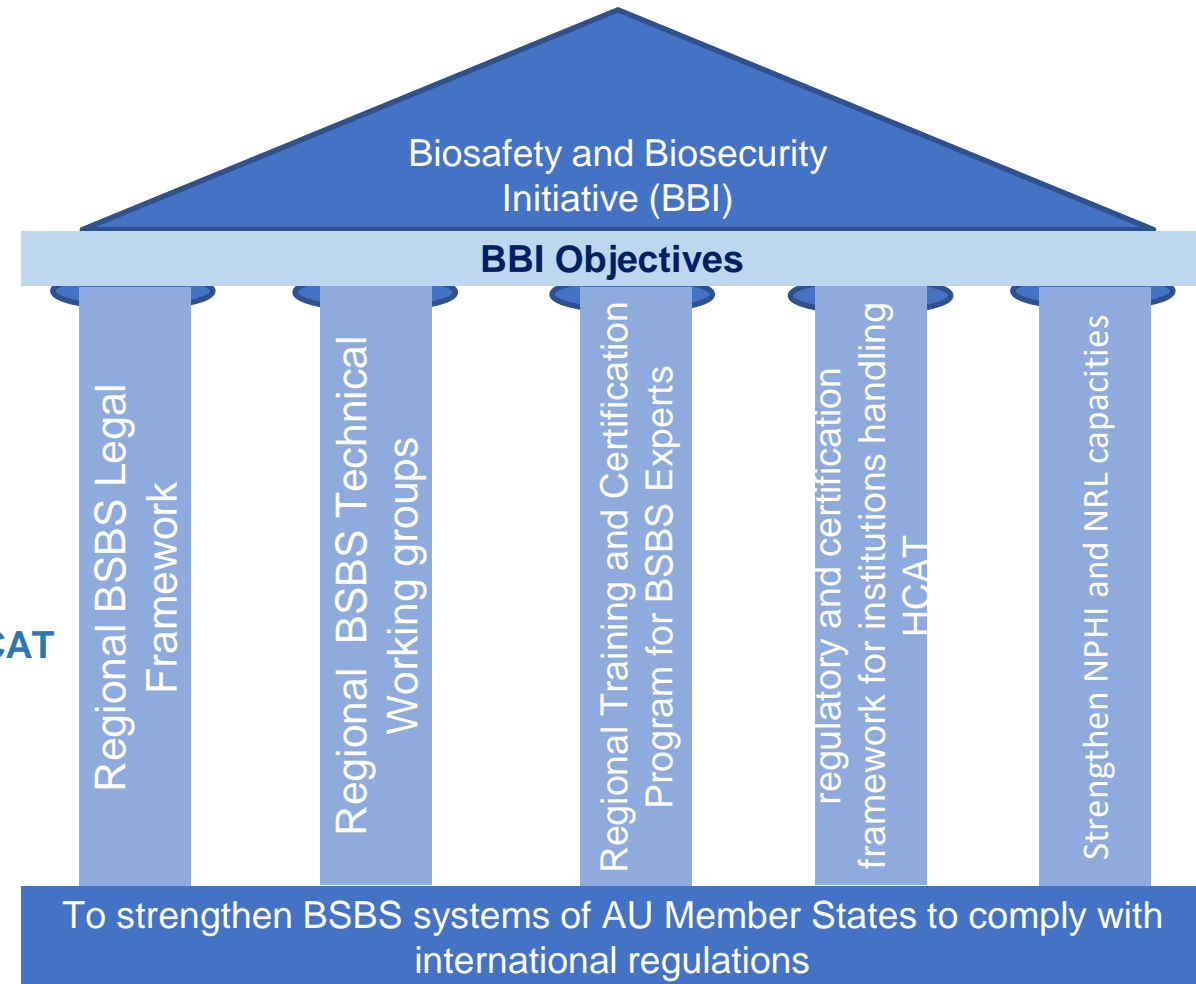
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Seychelles
- Somalia
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Rwanda

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Libya
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Sahrawi
- Tunisia

- Angola
- Botswana
- eSwatini
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cabo Verde
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

1. Regional BSBS Legal Framework
2. Regional BSBS Technical Working groups
3. Regional Training and **Certification Program** for BSBS Experts
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Establishment of a regional training and certification program for biosafety and biosecurity experts

Action

Develop a training and Certification Program

- local
- accessible
- sustainable
- regionally recognized and endorsed
- Formal



Output

Creation of an African Union's Register of Biosafety and Biosecurity Professionals.

**Training Program Development
March 2021 - December 2022**

**April – June
2022**

**April-August
2022**

✓
**Advisory
Group**

✓
**Regional
Consultations**

✓
**Member States
Validation**

✓
**Expert
Consultation**

✓
Establish ECC

✓
**Implementation
at RCoEBB**

Develop
Draft
Program

Through the
multi-expert
and multi-
sectorial RBB-
TWGs

5 Regional
Consultative
Meetings

All Regionals
Consultative
Meeting

Reviewed and
validated
updated
version of the
program

Regional
Experts

Review and
validate the
program

Selection of ECC
members and
establishment
and
operationalization
of ECC

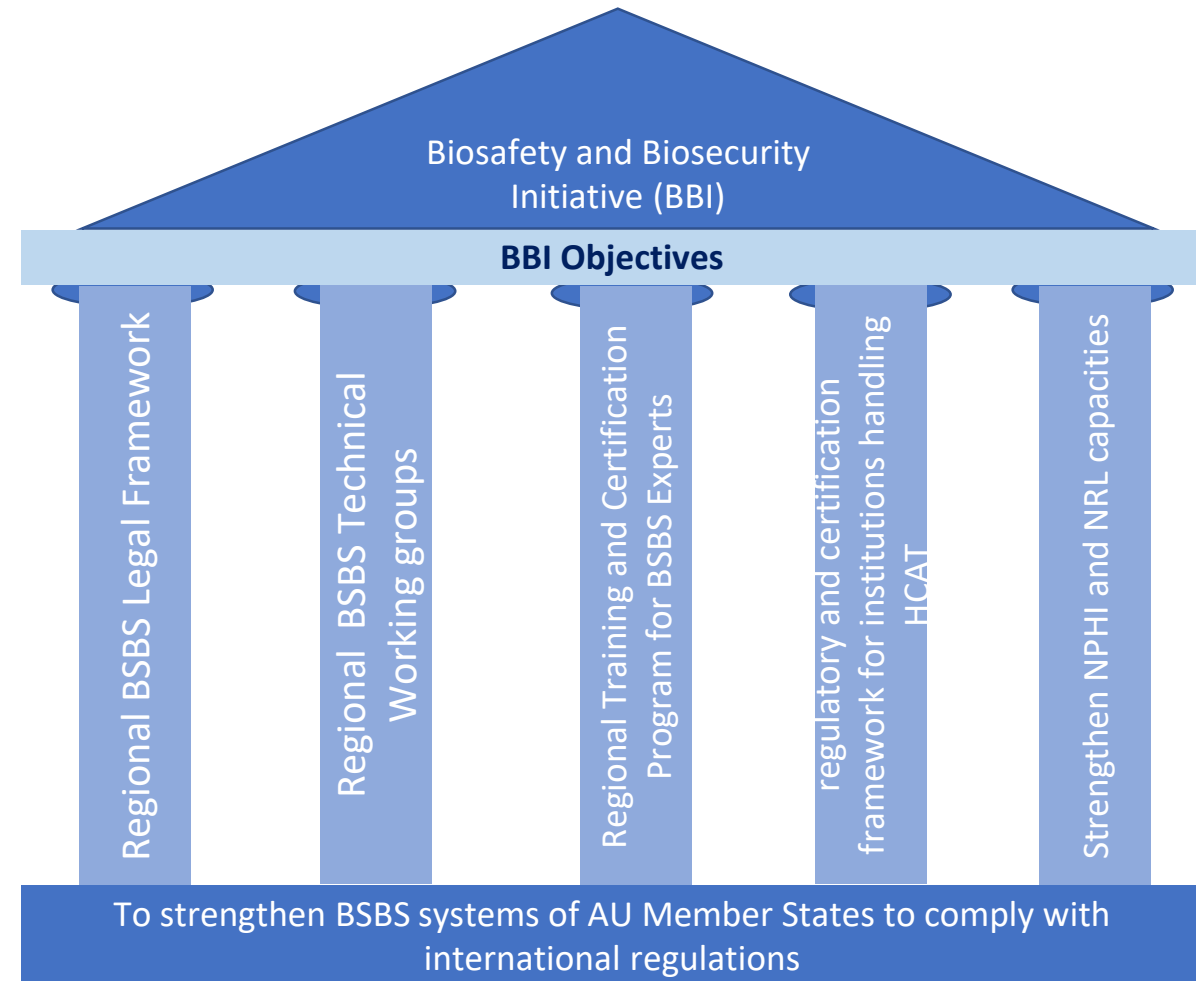
Establishment and
Operationalization
of RCoEBB

Launch of
Regional Program

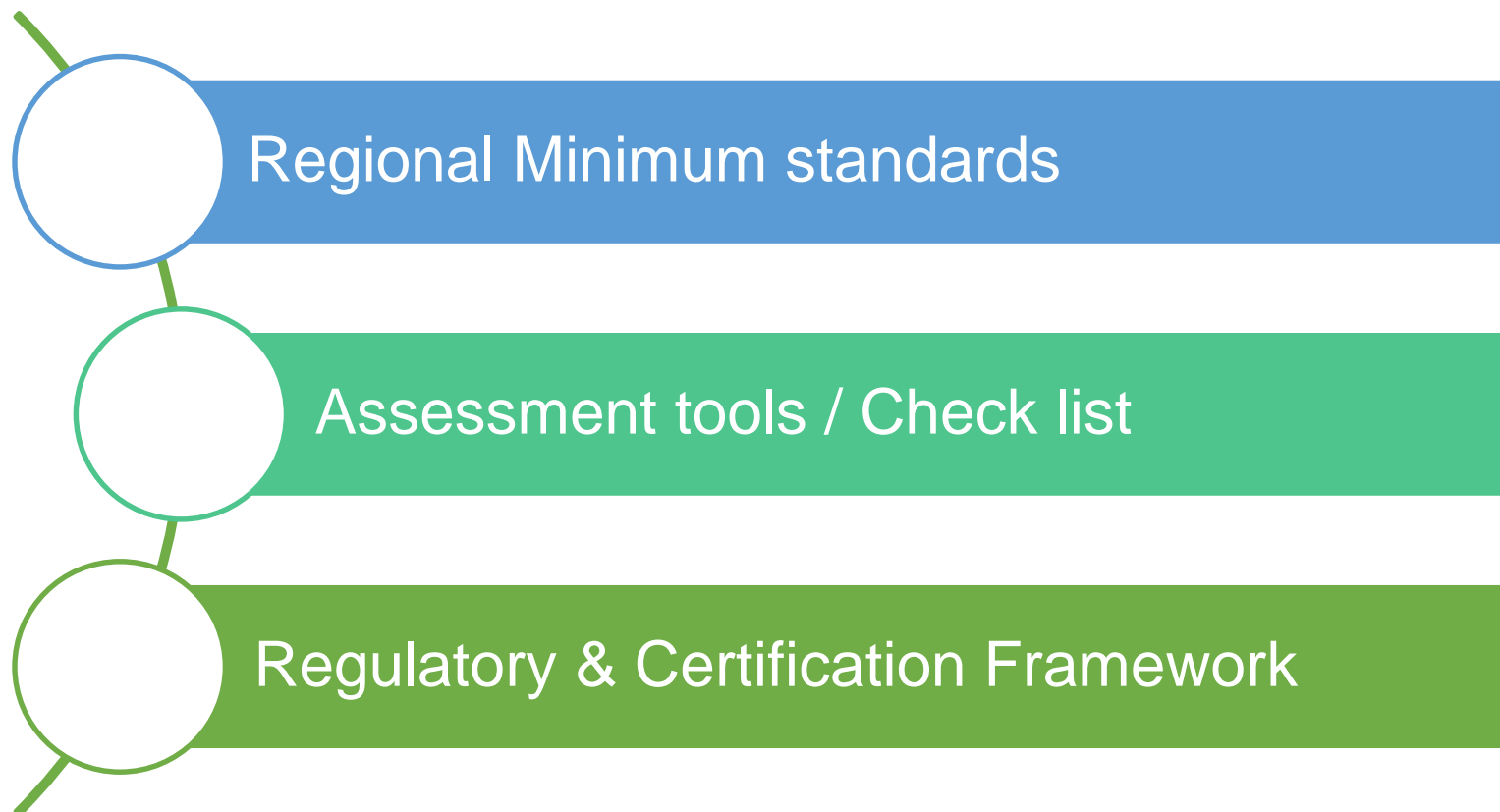
**Multi-
staged
Consultative
Iterative
Process**

Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative

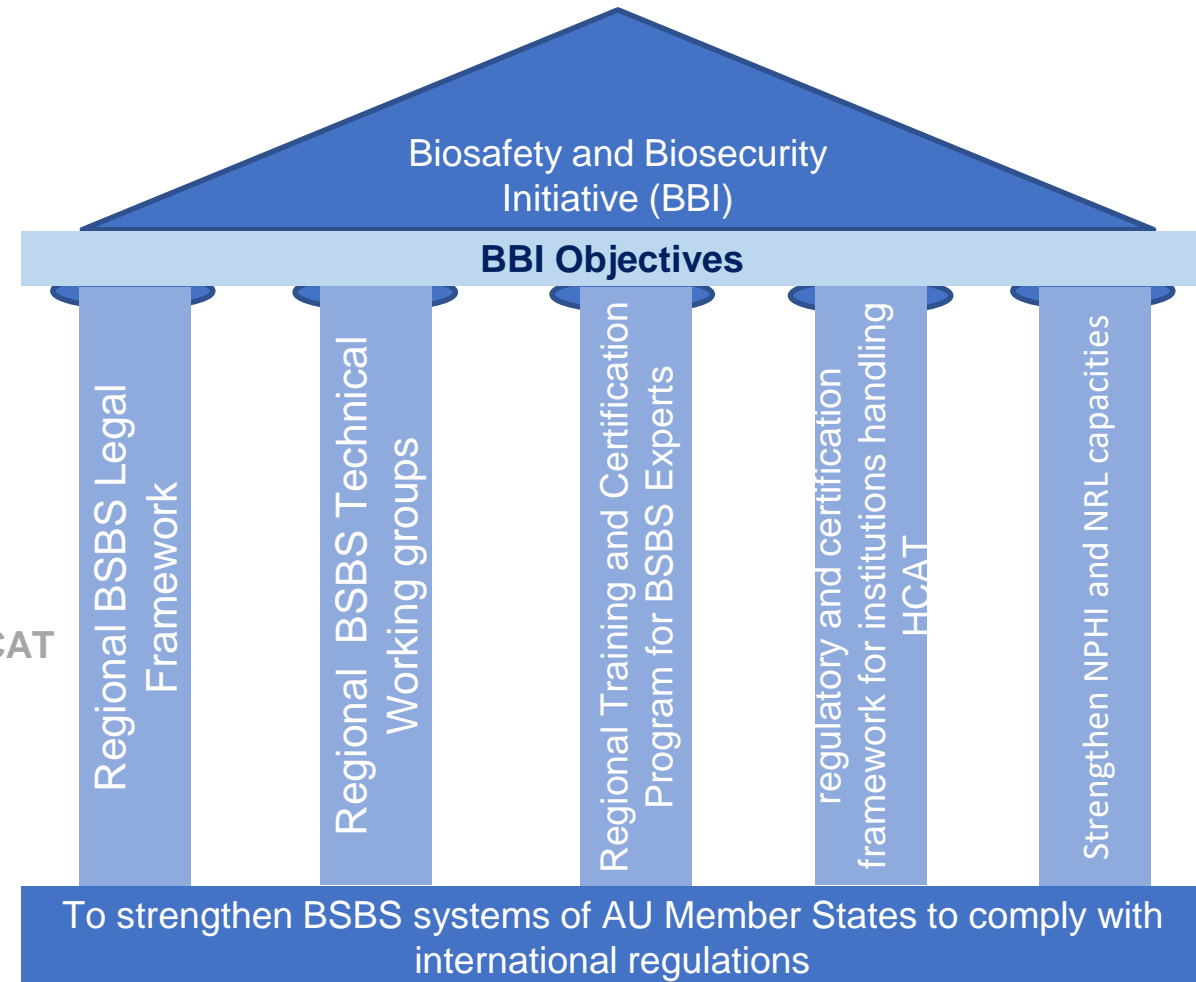
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Regulatory and Certification Framework for institutions handling high risk pathogens



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Output	Variable Outputs	Progress	Comment
<p>Trained and capacitated staff from National Public Health Institutes in areas of prevention, detection and responding to events of public health concern and threats of high consequence agents and toxins</p>	<p>1 x Rapid assessment on NPHI and NRL BSBS gaps</p>	<p>Conducted</p>	<p>Incorporated into the Regional Priorities report</p>
	<p>1 x Training and capacity program addressing BSBS NPHI and NRL</p>	<p>Conducted</p>	<p>Incorporated into the BSBS ToTs</p>
	<p>5 x Regional trainings on BSBS from the gaps</p>	<p>7 ToTs Conducted (70%)</p>	



Thank you