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States consider many variations in substance, structure, and obligation as trade-offs in negotiating the design of arms control agreements. Using the Biological Weapons Convention as an example, this article analyzes the dangers of adopting indeterminate language in this process. While it may be useful elsewhere, indeterminacy can frustrate arms control efforts and is particularly damaging to multilateral disarmament regimes shaped by security dilemmas involving complex dual-use technology issues.

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