

**SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF
BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN
WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

BWC/CONF.VI/INF.5
28 September 2006

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Review of the operation of the
Convention as provided for in its Article XII**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON STATUS OF UNIVERSALITY OF
THE CONVENTION**

Prepared by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 22 of its report (BWC/CONF.VI/PC/2), the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth Review Conference decided to request the Secretariat to compile a background information document on the status of universality of the Convention. The Secretariat has prepared this document in accordance with that request.

II. Current status

2. According to information supplied by the Depositary Governments of the Convention (the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America), as of September 2006 there were 155 States Parties to the Convention, and a further 16 states which have signed but not yet ratified. This leaves 24 States which have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. Annex I (English only) contains full lists of the States Parties, signatories, and states which have neither signed nor ratified.

III. Change since the Fifth Review Conference

3. Since the initial session of the Fifth Review Conference in 2001, two signatories have ratified the Convention (Mali and Morocco) and nine non-signatories have acceded (Holy See, Antigua and Barbuda, Palau, Timor Leste, Sudan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan). This has increased the total number of States Parties by eleven.

4. Over the same period, 33 states have ratified or acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which now has a total of 179 States Parties. Twenty-one of these have joined the CWC since October 2003, when the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) adopted an Action Plan to Promote the Universality of the CWC, following a recommendation made by the First Review Conference of the CWC earlier that year.

5. A chart showing the respective rates of ratification of the BWC and CWC is attached as Annex II (English only).

IV. Action to achieve universality

6. There has been no specific coordinated action undertaken by the States Parties to encourage wider adherence to the Convention. Successive review conferences have affirmed the belief of States Parties that universal adherence to the Convention would enhance international peace and security and would facilitate the wider exchange of information for the use of biological agents for peaceful purposes. They have thus called upon signatories to ratify the Convention and upon non-signatories to accede "without delay". The Third and Fourth Review Conferences also encouraged States Parties to take action to persuade non-parties to accede, and "particularly welcomed" regional initiatives that would lead to wider accession to the Convention. But no specific plan or actions were decided.

7. The annual United Nations General Assembly resolution on the BWC also typically calls on "all Signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay", and upon "those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention". Again, no specific action to support these calls has been endorsed.

8. It has thus been left to individual States Parties and regional groups to encourage wider adherence. As there is no central record of these efforts, the Secretariat is unable to give an account of them. One prominent recent initiative is the European Union's Joint Action in support of the Convention, adopted on 27 February 2006, which includes a series of regional workshops designed to promote universality¹.

V. Regional non-adherence

9. Annex III (English only) contains a table showing the distribution by region of the 16 signatories and the 24 States which have neither signed nor ratified the Convention.

¹ Council of the European Union, Joint Action 2006/184/CFSP.

Annex I

[English only]

List of States Parties, signatories and non-parties to the Biological Weapons Convention

(as at September 2006)

I. States Parties

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Afghanistan | 38. Democratic People's Republic of Korea |
| 2. Albania | 39. Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 3. Algeria | 40. Denmark |
| 4. Antigua and Barbuda | 41. Dominica |
| 5. Argentina | 42. Dominican Republic |
| 6. Armenia | 43. Ecuador |
| 7. Australia | 44. El Salvador |
| 8. Austria | 45. Equatorial Guinea |
| 9. Azerbaijan | 46. Estonia |
| 10. Bahamas | 47. Ethiopia |
| 11. Bahrain | 48. Fiji |
| 12. Bangladesh | 49. Finland |
| 13. Barbados | 50. France |
| 14. Belarus | 51. Gambia |
| 15. Belgium | 52. Georgia |
| 16. Belize | 53. Germany |
| 17. Benin | 54. Ghana |
| 18. Bhutan | 55. Greece |
| 19. Bolivia | 56. Grenada |
| 20. Bosnia-Herzegovina | 57. Guatemala |
| 21. Botswana | 58. Guinea-Bissau |
| 22. Brazil | 59. Holy See |
| 23. Brunei Darussalam | 60. Honduras |
| 24. Bulgaria | 61. Hungary |
| 25. Burkina Faso | 62. Iceland |
| 26. Cambodia | 63. India |
| 27. Canada | 64. Indonesia |
| 28. Cape Verde | 65. Iran (Islamic Republic of) |
| 29. Chile | 66. Iraq |
| 30. China | 67. Ireland |
| 31. Colombia | 68. Italy |
| 32. Congo | 69. Jamaica |
| 33. Costa Rica | 70. Japan |
| 34. Croatia | 71. Jordan |
| 35. Cuba | 72. Kenya |
| 36. Cyprus | 73. Kuwait |
| 37. Czech Republic | 74. Kyrgyzstan |

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 75. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 117. San Marino |
| 76. Latvia | 118. Sao Tome and Principe |
| 77. Lebanon | 119. Saudi Arabia |
| 78. Lesotho | 120. Senegal |
| 79. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 121. Serbia |
| 80. Liechtenstein | 122. Seychelles |
| 81. Lithuania | 123. Sierra Leone |
| 82. Luxembourg | 124. Singapore |
| 83. Malaysia | 125. Slovakia |
| 84. Maldives | 126. Slovenia |
| 85. Mali | 127. Solomon Islands |
| 86. Malta | 128. South Africa |
| 87. Mauritius | 129. Spain |
| 88. Mexico | 130. Sri Lanka |
| 89. Monaco | 131. Sudan |
| 90. Mongolia | 132. Suriname |
| 91. Morocco | 133. Swaziland |
| 92. Netherlands | 134. Sweden |
| 93. New Zealand | 135. Switzerland |
| 94. Nicaragua | 136. Tajikistan |
| 95. Niger | 137. Thailand |
| 96. Nigeria | 138. The Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia |
| 97. Norway | 139. Timor Leste |
| 98. Oman | 140. Togo |
| 99. Pakistan | 141. Tonga |
| 100. Palau | 142. Tunisia |
| 101. Panama | 143. Turkey |
| 102. Papua New Guinea | 144. Turkmenistan |
| 103. Paraguay | 145. Uganda |
| 104. Peru | 146. Ukraine |
| 105. Philippines | 147. United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland |
| 106. Poland | 148. United States of America |
| 107. Portugal | 149. Uruguay |
| 108. Qatar | 150. Uzbekistan |
| 109. Republic of Korea | 151. Vanuatu |
| 110. Republic of Moldova | 152. Venezuela |
| 111. Romania | 153. Viet Nam |
| 112. Russian Federation | 154. Yemen |
| 113. Rwanda | 155. Zimbabwe |
| 114. Saint Kitts and Nevis | |
| 115. Saint Lucia | |
| 116. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | |

II. Signatories

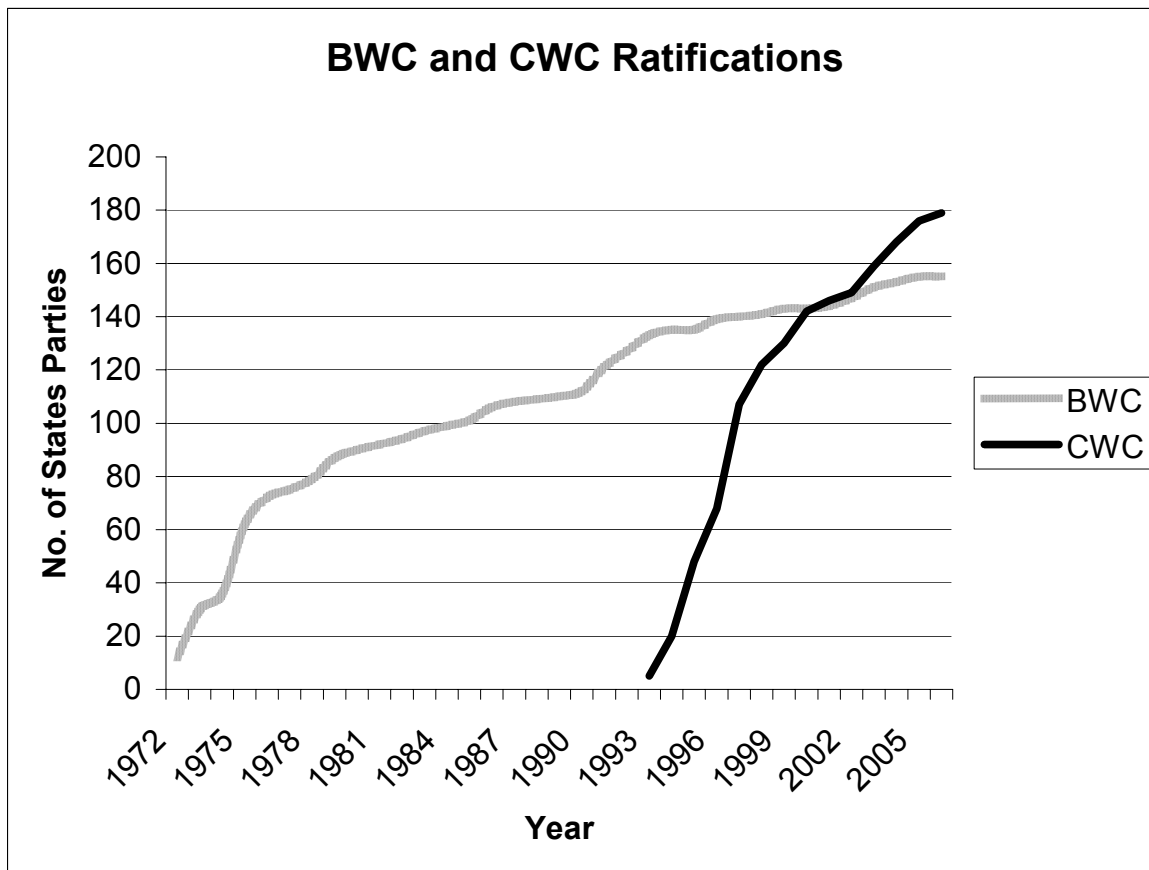
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Burundi | 9. Madagascar |
| 2. Central African Republic | 10. Malawi |
| 3. Côte d'Ivoire | 11. Myanmar |
| 4. Egypt | 12. Nepal |
| 5. Gabon | 13. Somalia |
| 6. Guyana | 14. Syrian Arab Republic |
| 7. Haiti | 15. United Arab Emirates |
| 8. Liberia | 16. United Republic of Tanzania |

III. Non-parties (neither signed nor ratified)

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Andorra | 13. Marshall Islands |
| 2. Angola | 14. Mauritania |
| 3. Cameroon | 15. Micronesia (Federated States of) |
| 4. Chad | 16. Montenegro |
| 5. Comoros | 17. Mozambique |
| 6. Cook Islands | 18. Namibia |
| 7. Djibouti | 19. Nauru |
| 8. Eritrea | 20. Niue |
| 9. Guinea | 21. Samoa |
| 10. Israel | 22. Trinidad and Tobago |
| 11. Kazakhstan | 23. Tuvalu |
| 12. Kiribati | 24. Zambia |

Annex II

[English only]



Annex III

[English only]

Table showing non-adherence to the Convention by region

	Americas and Caribbean	Africa	Middle East and Central Asia	Asia and the Pacific	Europe
Signatories	Guyana Haiti	Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania.	Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates.	Myanmar, Nepal.	
Total	2	10	2	2	0
Non-signatories	Trinidad and Tobago	Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guinea, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia.	Israel, Kazakhstan.	Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu.	Andorra, Montenegro.
Total	1	11	2	8	2
Total non-parties	3	21	4	10	2