

**MEETING 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**

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**Reports from the Chairman and States
Parties on Universalization activities**

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON UNIVERSALIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by the Chairman

Summary

The Sixth Review Conference decided that the Chairman of the annual meetings of States Parties would provide an annual report on universalization activities (BWC/CONF.VI/6, Part III, paragraph 11 (b)). This report outlines the results to date of the activities to promote universalization of the Convention undertaken by the Chairman and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU). It also includes information from States Parties, where that information has been provided to the Chairman or the ISU. The Convention currently has 159 States Parties, with 15 Signatories and 21 states having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 36 states are not party to the Convention. Of these, five states are reported to be well advanced in the ratification process, and a further eight are reported to have begun the process.

I. Overview

1. Four states have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the Sixth Review Conference: Gabon, Kazakhstan, Montenegro and Trinidad and Tobago. This has brought the number of States Parties to 159. This report outlines what is known about the remaining 36 states (of which 15 are signatories), based on:

- (i) responses to letters the Chairman wrote to the foreign ministers of states not party;
- (ii) meetings in Geneva and New York between the Chairman and the permanent representatives or other officials of states not party;
- (iii) an ISU visit to The Hague in November 2007 to meet Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) national authority representatives of the 29 states which are party to the CWC but not to the BWC (see list in Annex);
- (iv) information provided to the Chairman or ISU by States Parties.

2. The following table shows states not party by geographical region:

Geographical region	States not party to the Convention	Total
Asia and Pacific	Cook Islands, Israel, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Samoa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates	13
Latin America and Caribbean	Guyana, Haiti	2
Africa	Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia	20
Europe	Andorra	1

3. The following table shows states not party by progress towards ratification or accession:

Situation	States not party to the Convention	Total
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Burundi, Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar	5
Accession or ratification process started	Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Namibia, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia	8
Waiting for further information or assistance, etc	Andorra, Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Cook Islands, Guyana, Liberia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue	12
No action expected in near future	Egypt, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic	3
No information or feedback yet received	Djibouti, Eritrea, Haiti, Kiribati, Mauritania, Samoa, Somalia, Tuvalu	8

II. Signatories

4. The Chairman wrote to the foreign ministers of all signatory states on 29 October 2007 to encourage them to ratify and to update them on recent developments in the Convention.

Burundi

5. Burundi participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006). A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burundi indicated to the Chairman in October 2007 that Burundi had completed the necessary domestic steps to join the BWC and was preparing the necessary instrument.

Central African Republic

6. Central African Republic participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007), where a representative noted the Central African Republic needed support and assistance to ratify the BWC.

Côte d'Ivoire

7. Côte d'Ivoire participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007) where a representative explained that although the Executive had completed its part of the ratification process, no progress had been made in the parliament as a consequence of an internal political crisis. A representative of Côte d'Ivoire met with the ISU

on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague on 2 November 2007, and said that the ratification process had been initiated. On 6 November 2007, a representative from Cote d'Ivoire met with the Chairman and the ISU, and requested additional information on what assistance would be available to join the Convention.

Egypt

8. On 31 October 2007, a representative of Egypt met with the Chairman and said that Egypt subscribed to the aims of the Convention but was not able to ratify for now because of other regional security considerations. On 6 November 2007, another representative of Egypt met with the Chairman and the ISU and said that it was the formal position of his country that it would enter into no new internationally binding disarmament agreements until the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty had obtained universality.

Guyana

9. On 31 October 2007, a representative of Guyana met with the Chairman in New York and requested information on reservations under the Convention and correspondence on the issue carried out to date. This information was provided by the ISU; no further feedback has been received.

Haiti

10. Feedback from or information about Haiti has yet to be received.

Liberia

11. Liberia participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007), where a representative from Liberia said they would make every effort to ratify the Convention. On 31 October 2007, a representative of Liberia met with the Chairman in New York and said he would forward his "positive analysis" of the need for Liberia to ratify the Convention to capital.

Madagascar

12. Madagascar participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006) where a representative reported that the ratification process had begun and that the process could be completed within the next year. On 2 November 2007, representatives of Madagascar met with the ISU on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, and said that the national law required to ratify the BWC was due to be discussed in the national assembly during the first week in November. If this law was passed, then it would be necessary to draw up an instrument of ratification. On 6 November 2007, a different representative of Madagascar met with the Chairman and the ISU, and noted that information on the Convention had been transmitted to capital.

Malawi

13. Malawi participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007). On 2 November 2007, representatives of Malawi met with the ISU on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, and said that both policy makers and legislators had already agreed that Malawi should join the Convention, but that a number of practical considerations remained. They also inquired about obtaining assistance (both administrative and financial) for joining the Convention. Representatives of Malawi participated in a BWC seminar in Nairobi on 15-16 November 2007 which was organised by the BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP) and financed by Sweden.

Myanmar

14. Myanmar participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Asia and the Pacific Islands (Bangkok, 8-9 November 2006), where a representative indicated that preparations to ratify the BWC had begun and queried whether model legislation was available. On 31 October 2007, a representative of Myanmar met with the Chairman in New York and said that Myanmar had begun the BWC ratification process. The necessary internal processes had been completed and that the issue was now at the "highest level" for consideration and approval. On 6 November 2007, a different representative of Myanmar met with the Chairman and the ISU and confirmed that joining the regime was currently under review at the highest political level.

Nepal

15. Nepal participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Asia and the Pacific islands (Bangkok, 8-9 November 2006), where a representative noted that no ratification process was currently underway, adding that an accession bill would have to be submitted to parliament for approval. On 6 November 2007, a representative of Nepal met with the Chairman and the ISU and said that the process for joining the Convention had begun: it was only a question of priority and resources.

Somalia

16. Feedback from or information about Somalia has yet to be received.

Syrian Arab Republic

17. On 31 October 2007, a representative of the Syrian Arab Republic met with the Chairman in New York and said that the issue of ratifying the Convention was linked to other regional security considerations.

United Arab Emirates

18. On 31 October 2007, a representative of the United Arab Emirates met with the Chairman in New York and noted that ratification of the BWC was not linked to other regional security issues and that the UAE was in the process of ratifying the BWC. The representative added that due to the complexity of making the necessary amendments to both Federal and State legislation that ratification might take some time. On 6 November 2007, a representative of the

UAE met with the Chairman and the ISU and said that ratification was under consideration in capital. On 22 November, the permanent mission of the UAE in Geneva reported by note verbale to the ISU that "the Government of the United Arab Emirates is in the process of ratifying the Biological Weapons Convention".

United Republic of Tanzania

19. The United Republic of Tanzania participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006). On 2 November 2007, a representative of the United Republic of Tanzania met with the ISU on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, and said that the ratification process was underway.

III. States neither signed nor ratified

20. The Chairman wrote to the foreign ministers of states not party to the Convention on 3 October 2006, 3 May 2007, and 1 October 2007 to encourage them to accede and to update them on recent developments in the Convention.

Andorra

21. On 30 October 2007, a representative of Andorra met the Chairman in New York, and was optimistic on the prospects for accession and undertook to convey information to capital.

Angola

22. Angola participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007) where a representative said that there was a need to further sensitise policy makers in Angola of the existence and details of the Convention, as well as the reasons that Angola should join the Convention. The representative added that in principle it was likely that Angola would be willing to accede, provided that it could obtain concrete guarantees that it will be provided with assistance. On 6 November 2007, a representative of Angola met with the Chairman and the ISU and acknowledged receipt of earlier communications, but said that Angola was currently dealing with a large backlog of international treaties awaiting ratification.

Cameroon

23. On 2 November 2007, a representative of Cameroon informed the ISU, on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, that the accession process had begun and that the Ministry of Justice had received a draft law from the Ministry of Defence for review. If this draft law receives a positive review, then the process to adopt the law will be initiated. A review of how best to internalise the International Humanitarian Law treaties was underway and the BWC had been discussed in this context. On 6 November 2007, a representative of Cameroon met with the Chairman and the ISU and said that as the parliament of Cameroon had its last session for the year in December, it was unlikely that acceding to the BWC could be practically addressed until the next session in the first quarter of 2008. The representative was also interested in finding out what assistance might be provided to facilitate joining the Convention.

Chad

24. Chad participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007) where a representative agreed that joining the Convention was in line with Chad's existing obligations under other international treaties as well as Chad's counter-terrorism efforts. He added that outreach activities, such as the EU Joint Action seminar, could provide impetus towards accession, and that Chad would like to benefit from other countries' experiences with the BWC, especially with regards to the identification of key national stakeholders. On 6 November 2007, a representative of Chad met with the Chairman and the ISU and said that he would pursue the issue of joining the BWC with capital.

Comoros

25. Comoros participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006), where a representative reported that the process to accede to the BWC had already been initiated and that the process could be completed within the next year. A representative of Comoros indicated to the Chairman in October 2007 that Comoros had drafted the necessary domestic measures to ratify the Convention, that these measures have successfully passed through an extraordinary session of the Council of the Government, and are currently awaiting signature by the President of Comoros.

Cook Islands

26. The Cook Islands participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Asia and the Pacific islands (Bangkok, 8-9 November 2006), where a representative noted that as a small island state, it would likely be cautious about overburdening its domestic structures. The representative also inquired about assistance for joining the BWC and noted that ultimately accession would require only a cabinet decision.

Djibouti

27. Djibouti participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006).

Eritrea

28. Eritrea participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007).

Guinea

29. Guinea participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for West and Central Africa (Dakar, 17-18 April 2007), where a representative explained that Guinea has initiated the process of acceding to the BWC, including by sensitising stakeholders. The representative believed that increased awareness of the BWC would facilitate the accession process.

Israel

30. A representative of the Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel wrote to the Chairman on 23 July 2007 stating that Israel shared the view that "the threat of biological warfare is indeed an ominous one" but that "regional circumstances...cannot be overlooked by Israel upon any consideration of the issue of possible accession to the BTWC. ... It is our sincere hope that the future will yield improved regional circumstances which would allow a renewed consideration of this issue".

Kiribati

31. Feedback from or information about Kiribati has yet to be received.

Marshall Islands

32. The Marshall Islands participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Asia and the Pacific islands (Bangkok, 8-9 November 2006), where a representative noted that the accession process was yet to be started. An accession bill would have to be submitted to parliament for approval.

Mauritania

33. On 6 November 2007, the Chairman and the ISU met with a representative of Mauritania, who undertook to transmit information back to capital.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

34. On 2 November a representative of the Federated States of Micronesia met with the ISU on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, and said that Micronesia had begun thinking about joining the BWC but that no additional information was available at the current time.

Mozambique

35. Mozambique participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006). The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Dr. Alcinda Antonio de Abreu, wrote to the Chairman on 4 June 2007 stating that "the process for accession by the Republic of Mozambique to the said Convention is at an advanced stage and hopefully will be concluded very soon". On 2 November 2007, a representative of Mozambique met with the ISU on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, and confirmed that this process was indeed well underway.

Namibia

36. Namibia participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006). On 2 November 2007 representatives of Namibia met with the ISU on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, and said that Namibia had begun the process to join the BWC but that no additional information was available at the current time.

Nauru

37. Nauru participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Asia and the Pacific islands (Bangkok, 8-9 November 2006) where a representative said that accession would require only a cabinet decision.

Niue

38. Niue participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Asia and the Pacific islands (Bangkok, 8-9 November 2006) where a representative noted that accession would require only a cabinet decision.

Samoa

39. On 31 October 2007 a representative of Samoa met with the Chairman in New York and confirmed that the Chairman's letters had arrived and had been forwarded to the Minister's office.

Tuvalu

40. Tuvalu participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Asia and the Pacific Islands (Bangkok, 8-9 November 2006).

Zambia

41. Zambia participated in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for Southern and East Africa (Nairobi, 21-22 June 2006), where a representative reported that Zambia had initiated the process to accede to the BWC, and that the process could be completed within the next year. On 2 November 2007, a representative of Zambia met with the ISU on the margins of an OPCW meeting in The Hague, and said that the domestic process was not quite as fully developed as previously reported. On 6 November 2007, another representative of Zambia met with the Chairman and the ISU and said the delay in joining the BWC was due only to resource issues.

Annex

**List of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention
which are not party to the Biological Weapons Convention**

(as at November 2007)

1. Andorra
2. Burundi*
3. Cameroon
4. Chad
5. Cook Islands
6. Côte d'Ivoire*
7. Djibouti
8. Eritrea
9. Guinea
10. Guyana*
11. Haiti*
12. Kiribati
13. Liberia*
14. Madagascar*
15. Malawi*
16. Marshall Islands
17. Mauritania
18. Micronesia (Federated States of)
19. Mozambique
20. Namibia
21. Nauru
22. Nepal*
23. Niue
24. Samoa
25. Tuvalu
26. United Arab Emirates*
27. United Republic of Tanzania*
28. Zambia

* BWC signatory (not ratified)
