

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) in 2010. It also includes information from States Parties and other organizations, where that information has been provided to the Chairman or the ISU. The Convention currently has 163 States Parties, with 13 Signatories and 19 states having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 32 states are not party to the Convention. Of these, two states have completed all internal steps and are preparing to deposit their respective instruments of accession; seven states are reported to be well advanced in the ratification process; and a further six are reported to have begun the process.

I. Overview

1. No states have ratified or acceded to the Convention since the 2008 Meeting of States Parties, although Cameroon and Malawi are reported to have completed all internal steps and are preparing to deposit their respective instruments of accession. The total number of States Parties still stands at 163; a further 13 states have signed but not ratified the Convention; and an additional 19 states have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. This report outlines what is known about these 32 states.

* Late submission.

2. Since the 2009 Meeting of States Parties, the following universalization activities have been undertaken by the Chairman and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU):

(a) On 28-29 January 2010, the ISU took part in the Geneva Forum orientation for diplomats in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants included representatives from states not party to the Convention.

(b) On 2-4 February 2010, the ISU participated in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Nairobi, Kenya, and held bilateral consultations with the delegations of Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania.

(c) The ISU was invited by the African Union (AU) to attend its meeting on 8 February 2010 to give a presentation on the Convention and on the mandate of the ISU. This meeting was a good opportunity to appeal for the AU's support for the implementation and the universalization of the BWC. The ISU reminded the AU delegates that seven members of the AU are signatories to the BWC (Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Liberia, Somalia, and United Republic of Tanzania) while eight members of AU have neither signed nor ratified the Convention (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guinea, Mozambique, and Namibia).

(d) A member of the ISU participated in the Second South Asian International Humanitarian Law Conference, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 14-18 February 2010. Representatives of two states not party – Myanmar and Nepal – participated in the workshop. The workshop was a good opportunity to increase the awareness of these states about the Convention and to discuss possible assistance and cooperation.

(e) The ISU was invited by the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) to attend its meeting on 27 May 2010 to make a presentation on the BWC and the mandate of the ISU. This meeting was a good opportunity to appeal for the OIF's support for the implementation and universalization of the BWC. During the discussion, the ISU highlighted the fact that ten States from OIF have not yet joined the Convention yet (Andorra, Burundi, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Haiti, Mauritania).

(f) In July 2010, the ISU had a meeting with a representative of the permanent mission of Côte d'Ivoire in Geneva to discuss the Convention and possible accession.

(g) The ISU briefed participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme on 30 August 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants included individuals from states not party to the Convention.

(h) From 25-27 October 2010, the ISU participated in the Regional Workshop on Implementation of the BWC in West and Central Africa in Abuja, Nigeria, organized by the European Union Joint Action in support of the Biological Weapons Convention and Nigeria National Authority on the Biological Weapons Convention. Three states not party to the Convention – Burundi, Cameroon, and Côte d'Ivoire – participated in the workshop. The workshop was used as an opportunity to increase the awareness of these states about the Convention and to discuss possible assistance and cooperation.

(i) Throughout the year, the ISU remained in regular contact with states not party that have expressed an interest in the Convention, sought assistance to join, or requested additional information.

3. Over the course of 2010, the Chairman and the ISU were pleased to learn of support, activities and demarches undertaken by Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union Joint Action in Support of the BWC, toward the goal of universalization.

4. Activities held throughout the year have generated additional information on progress towards universalization. This report includes data from the activities listed above, as well as from communications from States Parties, states not party, and interested organisations, such as the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

5. The following tables show states not party by geographical region and by progress towards ratification or accession:

Table 1

States not party by geographical region

<i>Geographical region</i>	<i>States not party to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Asia and Pacific	Israel, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar*, Nauru, Nepal*, Niue, Samoa, Syrian Arab Republic*, Tuvalu	11
Latin America and Caribbean	Guyana*, Haiti*	2
Africa	Angola, Burundi*, Cameroon, Central African Republic*, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire*, Djibouti, Egypt*, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia*, Malawi*, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia*, United Republic of Tanzania*	18
Europe	Andorra	1

* Signatory (not ratified)

Table 2

States not party by progress towards accession or ratification

<i>Situation</i>	<i>States not party to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Burundi*, Cameroon, Comoros, Kiribati, Malawi*, Mozambique, Myanmar*, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania*	9
Accession or ratification process started	Andorra, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire*, Haiti*, Namibia, Nepal*	6
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Central African Republic*, Chad, Djibouti, Guyana*, Liberia*, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Nauru, Somalia*, Samoa	11
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	3
No information or feedback yet received	Eritrea, Guinea, Niue	3

* Signatory (not ratified)

6. The following states not party have requested assistance relevant to universalization efforts:

- (a) Côte d'Ivoire: the ISU has been contacted by the permanent mission in Geneva, requesting additional information on the BWC and ratification. The ISU has met the representative and provided the requested information.
- (b) Andorra: following an initial contact with the United States, the government of Andorra contacted the ISU for advice on preparing an instrument of accession.
- (c) Cameroon's newly-nominated BWC National Contact Point requested the ISU's assistance in implementing the BWC. Once again, the ISU explained to the representative that the Cameroon needs to accede to the Convention first.
- (d) Burundi requested assistance through the EU Joint Action to raise awareness of the country's decision-makers about the Convention and provide legal and administrative assistance to prepare the ratification instruments. A representative of Burundi was sponsored by the Joint Action to participate in the 2010 Meeting of States Parties.

II. Signatories

Burundi

7. The United Kingdom together with VERTIC maintained contacts with Burundi, providing a model instrument of ratification together with a letter explaining the benefit of joining the BWC. In October 2010, Burundi participated in the Regional Workshop on Implementation of the BWC in Abuja, Nigeria. Burundi requested assistance through the EU Joint Action to raise awareness of the country's decision-makers about the Convention and provide legal and administrative assistance to prepare the ratification instruments. A representative of Burundi was sponsored by the Joint Action to participate in the 2010 Meeting of States Parties.

Central African Republic

8. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Côte d'Ivoire

9. The United Kingdom and VERTIC have maintained contacts with Côte d'Ivoire, providing model instrument of ratification together with a letter explaining the benefit of joining the BWC. During the course of 2009 and 2010, the Permanent Secretary of the Côte d'Ivoire national authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention has been in contact with the ISU and has indicated that he will be coordinating national efforts to join the Convention. As a follow-up he has urged his permanent mission in Geneva to establish closer contact with the ISU and seek better understanding for the BWC. From June 2010, a member of the ISU has been exchanging communication with the permanent mission in Geneva and met its representative in July 2010 to discuss the various possibilities in supporting Côte d'Ivoire's accession to the Convention. In October 2010, Côte d'Ivoire participated in the Regional Workshop on Implementation of the BWC organized in Abuja, Nigeria.

Egypt

10. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Guyana

11. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Haiti

12. Following several demarches and other contacts by Canada in 2009, Haiti's ratification seemed to be progressing. Unfortunately, due to the catastrophic earthquake in January 2010, further progress is not expected in the near future.

Liberia

13. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Malawi

14. Following a demarche by Germany, it appears that Malawi has completed all internal procedures and will soon deposit its instrument of ratification.

Myanmar

15. Myanmar took part in the Second South Asian IHL Conference in Bangladesh from 14-18 February 2010. Contacts have been established and the ISU took this opportunity to discuss with the representatives and sensitize them on topics relevant to the BWC. VERTIC has been keeping close contact with Myanmar, providing a model instrument of ratification together with a letter explaining the benefit of joining the BWC. Germany reported undertaking recent demarches to Myanmar, and will report on results shortly.

Nepal

16. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Somalia

17. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Syrian Arab Republic

18. No additional information has been received since the last report.

United Republic of Tanzania

19. From February 2-4 2010, Tanzania participated in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Nairobi, Kenya. During its bilateral consultation with the ISU, Tanzania confirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had brought the accession dossier to the Cabinet, which will go to the Parliament. The representatives added that 2010 is election year and they were afraid the process might be slowed down for this reason. However, the representative from the Ministry of Defence and Chairperson of the WMD national committee, who is also in charge for Tanzania's ratification to the BWC, made the commitment to keep up the pace.

III. States neither signed nor ratified

Andorra

20. Following an initial contact with the United States, the government of Andorra contacted the ISU for advice on preparing an instrument of accession. No further information has been received.

Angola

21. The United Kingdom together with VERTIC have maintained contacts with Angola, providing a model instrument of accession together with a letter explaining the benefit of joining the BWC. Following a demarche from Germany, it appears that the Head of the Department of International Affairs in the MFA of Angola responded that a recommendation for accession to the BWC has been forwarded to the Council of Ministers. Due to reorganization of the Council based on the new constitution of February 2010, there may be some delay in taking a decision.

Cameroon

22. Cameroon officials reported in November 2009 that the President of Cameroon has signed an act of accession to the Convention. In January 2010, a member of the ISU met in Geneva a representative from Yaoundé in order to enquire on the developments of Cameroon's accession to the BWC. On February 2-4, Cameroon participated in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Nairobi, Kenya. During their bilateral consultation with the ISU, the three representatives recognised the great value of nominating a national point of contact (NCP) and made the commitment to have a NCP dedicated to the BWC even if Cameroon is not yet party to the Convention. Shortly after the workshop, three recommendation letters from the three representatives were sent to their respective Ministries in order to urge Cameroon to join the BWC without delay. VERTIC has been keeping close contact with Cameroon, providing model instrument of accession together with a letter explaining the benefit of joining the BWC. In May 2010, a member of the ISU met two representatives from Yaoundé in Geneva. The latter informed the ISU that they are currently in the process of nominating a NCP. On May 19 Cameroon informed the ISU that the President has signed the presidential ratification decree. On August 12, Cameroon informed the ISU that a candidate has been identified to be nominated as NCP. On 20 September, the ISU has been informed that a NCP has been nominated; contact has been established with the newly nominated NCP, who requested the ISU's assistance in implementing the BWC. Once again, the ISU explained to Cameroon that the country needs to accede to the Convention first. In October 2010, Cameroon participated in the Regional Workshop on Implementation of the BWC organized in Abuja, Nigeria. On 2 November, Cameroon informed the ISU that that the act of accession has been published in the "Journal Officiel de la République". The United States is currently clarifying the latter issue through its embassy in Yaoundé, in order to speed up the accession process.

Chad

23. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Comoros

24. Information reported in October 2007 indicated that a draft instrument of ratification was awaiting signature by the President of Comoros. No additional information has been received.

Djibouti

25. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Eritrea

26. Feedback from, or information about, Eritrea has yet to be received.

Guinea

27. Feedback from, or information about, Guinea has yet to be received.

Israel

28. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Kiribati

29. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Mauritania

30. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Marshall Islands

31. No additional information has been received since the last report..

Micronesia (Federated States of)

32. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Mozambique

33. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Namibia

34. Namibia reported in 2007 that it had started the accession process. However, following several universality demarches to Namibia made by Germany, it appears that Namibia has lost interest, with foreign ministry officials stating that Namibia does not see the need to join all international treaties, and also citing difficulties with convincing other government ministries.

Nauru

35. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Niue

36. Feedback from, or information about, Niue has yet to be received.

Samoa

37. No additional information has been received since the last report.

Tuvalu

38. No additional information has been received since the last report.
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