

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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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Progress with universalization of the Convention

Report on universalization activities

Submitted by the Chairman*

Summary

The Seventh Review Conference decided to request the Chair of the Meeting of States Parties to prepare an annual report on universalization activities (BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part III, paragraph 29). The Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties has duly compiled this document which outlines the results to date of the activities to promote universalization of the Convention undertaken by the Chairman, Vice-chairs and the ISU in 2012. 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 165 States Parties (listed in the Annex), with 12 signatories and 19 states having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 31 states are not party to the Convention.

I. Introduction

1. Burundi acceded to the Convention on 18 October 2011, bringing the total number of States Parties to 165 (see Annex); a further 12 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 31 states.
2. In October 2012, the Marshall Islands adopted a resolution requesting the parliament to approve the accession of the Marshall Islands to the BWC and requesting the Minister of Foreign Affairs to execute and transmit depositary letters and accession documents.
3. An act of accession was signed by the President of Cameroon in 2009. However, the original instrument has been misplaced and therefore has never been deposited. The

* Submitted after due date, as soon as the required information was received by the Secretariat.

President's Cabinet has given a deadline to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to locate the original instrument of accession by end of May 2012. Unfortunately, attempts by the ISU since May 2012 to obtain further information has been so far unsuccessful.

II. Activities to promote universalization

4. Since the 2011 Seventh Review Conference, the following universalization activities have been undertaken and reported to the Chairman or ISU:

(a) On 23 October 2012, the Chairman wrote to the foreign ministers of the 28 states not party listed in the four categories other than "No action expected in near future" in Table 2 of the 2011 report on universalization (BWC/CONF.VII/INF.7), to encourage them to join the Convention and requesting information on current progress or development regarding accession or ratification of the Convention.

(b) On 22 October 2012, on the margin of the First Committee in New York, on behalf of the Chairman, one of the Vice-chairs (Ambassador Schmid, Switzerland) hosted a meeting on the Convention, in order to raise awareness among states not parties. Representatives of the three Depositary Governments, Algeria, Poland, Australia and UNODA assisted with the meeting. Representatives of three signatories and three states not party participated: Andorra, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Myanmar and South Sudan.

(c) In 2012, assistance regarding ratification or accession and national implementation processes was provided to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nepal, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niue, and Samoa by the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

(d) From 8-9 March 2012, a representative of the ISU took part in the *Intersessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament* organized by the ASEAN Regional Forum and held in Sydney where he met with a representative of Myanmar.

(e) From 10-11 April 2012, a representative of the ISU participated in a meeting titled *Disarmament Futures: Evolution of International Disarmament Treaties and Their Contribution to Middle Eastern Security*, held at the European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris, where he met a representative from Egypt.

(f) On 3 July 2012, the ISU briefed the participants of a course on *Disarmament and Weapons of Mass Destruction* on the BWC. The course was held at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and a representative of Myanmar was present.

(g) From 12-13 September 2012, a representative of the ISU participated in the *First Roundtable Meeting of the CBRN Centres of Excellence North Africa and Sahel Region* in Algiers, Algeria, where she met with representatives of Chad and Mauritania.

(h) In 2012, the ISU has had contacts with the 1540 Coordinator for CARICOM regarding Haiti and Guyana's ratification of the BWC.

(i) The ISU remained in regular contact with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to coordinate mutual universalization efforts.

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

5. To date, five States Parties have reported that they have taken action to promote universalization of the Convention in 2012: Canada, Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States.

III. Overview of current status

6. 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 signatories, and interested organizations and entities such as the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

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

Table 1

States not party and signatories by geographical region

<i>Geographical region</i>	<i>States not party and signatories 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, Cameroon, Central African Republic*, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire*, Djibouti, Egypt*, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia*, Malawi*, Mauritania, Namibia, Somalia*, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania*	17
Europe	Andorra	1

* Signatory (not ratified)

Table 2

States not party and signatories by progress towards accession or ratification

<i>Situation</i>	<i>States not party and signatories to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Cameroon, Comoros, Malawi*, Marshall Islands	4
Accession or ratification process started	Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti*, United Republic of Tanzania*	4
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Andorra, Angola, Central African Republic*, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire*, Guyana*, Liberia*, Mauritania, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal*, Samoa, Somalia*	14
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	3
No information or feedback yet received	Eritrea, Kiribati, Micronesia, Niue, South Sudan, Tuvalu	6

* Signatory (not ratified)

IV. Signatories

Central African Republic

8. No further information has been received since 2011.

Côte d'Ivoire

9. After Côte d'Ivoire expressed its interest in becoming a State Party during the Seventh Review Conference, VERTIC provided in January 2012 a model instrument of ratification, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a survey of Côte d'Ivoire's BWC-related legislation and offered legislative assistance for BWC ratification and the drafting of national implementing legislation. In October 2012, Côte d'Ivoire took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Vice-chair, Ambassador Schmid, in New York.

Egypt

10. In April 2012, a representative of Egypt attended a meeting on *Disarmament Futures: Evolution of International Disarmament Treaties and Their Contribution to Middle Eastern Security* held at the European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris, France, where a member of the ISU briefed the participants about the Convention.

Guyana

11. No further information has been received since 2011.

Haiti

12. Following the catastrophic earthquake in January 2010 which delayed the process of ratification, Haiti informed the President-designate and the ISU during the universalization meeting in Geneva on 4 May 2011 and a bilateral meeting in June 2011 that the Haitian government was now ready to continue from where it had left off. In December 2011, VERTIC provided a survey of Haiti's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of ratification, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC ratification and the drafting of national implementing legislation. In October 2012, Haiti took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Vice-Chair, Ambassador Schmid, in New York.

Liberia

13. VERTIC prepared a survey of Liberia's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of ratification, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC ratification and the drafting of national implementing legislation. The United States Embassy delivered VERTIC's documents to senior government officials in July 2012, VERTIC reported.

Malawi

14. Following a demarche by Germany in 2010, it appeared that Malawi had completed all internal procedures and was soon to deposit its instrument of ratification. However, Germany demarched Malawi in 2011 and did not receive any further information.

Myanmar

15. In May 2011, the President-designate and the ISU met with representatives from Myanmar during the universalization meeting in Geneva, where Myanmar confirmed its commitments to the principles of the BWC and informed that the Myanmar government was currently reviewing 360 items of legislation, including for ratifying the BWC. However the process was delayed due to the transitional government. In March 2012, a representative of Myanmar took part in the *ASEAN Regional Forum Intersessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament* held in Sydney, Australia, where he met with a member of the ISU. The head of the Myanmar delegation to the meeting announced that Myanmar intended to ratify both the BWC and CWC, but that the many changes involved in the transition to democratic government in Myanmar meant that this would still take some time. The representative also stated that Myanmar intended to proceed with a BWC workshop in cooperation with the ISU, aimed at familiarizing various Myanmar government agencies with the BWC and the requirements for its implementation. In 2012, Myanmar also participated in a *Disarmament and Weapons of Mass Destruction* course held in Geneva, Switzerland, where participants were briefed on the BWC by the ISU. During the Seventh Review Conference, VERTIC reiterated the possibility, already considered in June 2011, of a visit to Naypyidaw to discuss BWC ratification and implementation matters. In October 2012, Myanmar took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Vice-chair, Ambassador Schmid, in New York.

Nepal

16. In July 2012, VERTIC sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a survey of Nepal's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of ratification, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC ratification and the drafting of national implementing legislation.

Somalia

17. No further information has been received since 2008.

Syrian Arab Republic

18. In 2007, the Syrian Arab Republic linked the ratification of the Convention to other regional security considerations. Given the situation in the country, no further movement seems likely at present.

United Republic of Tanzania

19. In February 2010 representatives of Tanzania told the ISU that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had brought the ratification dossier to the Cabinet, which was to go to the Parliament. They added that the 2010 election might slow down the process. In 2011, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom wrote to his Tanzanian counterpart to encourage Tanzania to join the Convention. No further information has been received since 2011.

V. States neither signed nor ratified

Andorra

20. In 2010, the government of Andorra contacted the ISU for advice on preparing an instrument of accession. Andorra received assistance regarding accession from the British Embassy in 2011. The officials indicated that they hope Andorra can accede to the

Convention following the April 2011 elections. However, no further information has been received since 2011. In October 2012, Andorra took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Vice-chair in New York.

Angola

21. In February 2012, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom met with his Angolan counterpart. Foreign Minister of Angola promised that Angola would accede to the BWC and the CWC, indicating that the delay was purely due to administrative capacity issues.

Cameroon

22. An act of accession has been signed by the Head of the government of Cameroon in 2009. However, in July 2011, the ISU received a copy of the accession act and has been informed by the National Contact Point of Cameroon that the original instrument has been misplaced and therefore has never been deposited. On 20 March 2012, a member of the ISU met with Cameroon's National Contact Point in Geneva who informed the ISU that the President's Cabinet has given a deadline to their Ministry for Foreign Affairs to locate the original instrument of accession by end of May 2012. The ISU has been trying to establish contact with the Contact Point but has so far been unsuccessful.

Chad

23. In February 2012, VERTIC prepared a survey of Chad's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC accession and the drafting of national implementing legislation. VERTIC reported that the United States Embassy delivered VERTIC's documents to senior government officials in March 2012. In September 2012, a member of the ISU met with a representative of Chad at the first round table meeting of the CBRN Centres of Excellence North Africa and Sahel Region in Algiers, Algeria, and informed Chad about the BWC.

Comoros

24. Information reported in October 2007 indicated that a draft instrument of accession was awaiting signature by the President of Comoros. In 2011, VERTIC provided assistance regarding accession. VERTIC reported that the United States Embassy delivered VERTIC's materials to senior government officials of Comoros in March 2012.

Djibouti

25. In February 2012, VERTIC prepared a survey of Djibouti's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC accession and the drafting of national implementing legislation. VERTIC reported that the United States Embassy delivered VERTIC's documents to senior government officials in March 2012.

Eritrea

26. In January 2012, VERTIC provided a survey of Eritrea's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC accession and the drafting of national implementing legislation. VERTIC received acknowledgment of receipt.

Guinea

27. The Netherlands reported that its Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received a *note verbale* from Guinea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 18 July 2011, in which Guinea expressed its intention to join the BWC through the above-mentioned document. However, the *note verbale* could not be accepted as an instrument of accession by the depositaries. No further information has been received since 2011. In October 2012, Guinea took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Vice-Chair in New York.

Israel

28. Israel took part in the universalization meeting held in Geneva on 4 May 2011, where it confirmed again that joining the Convention was linked to other regional security considerations. There has been no further contact since May 2011.

Kiribati

29. No further information has been reported since 2011.

Mauritania

30. In February 2012, VERTIC provided a survey of Mauritania's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC accession and the drafting of national implementing legislation. VERTIC sent sample accession documents in September 2012 to a point of contact at the National Radiation Protection Agency. In September 2012, a member of the ISU met with a representative of Mauritania at the first round table meeting of the CBRN Centres of Excellence North Africa and Sahel Region in Algiers, Algeria and informed Mauritania about the BWC.

Marshall Islands

31. In October 2012, the United States reported that the Republic of the Marshall Islands (adopted a resolution requesting the parliament to approve the accession of the government to the BWC and requesting the Minister of Foreign Affairs to execute and transmit depositary letters and accession documents. On 26 October 2012, the Marshall Islands contacted the ISU requesting assistance in depositing the original instrument. The ISU consequently provided the three depositary contact details. The Marshall Islands is currently in contact with the United States Depositary Officer of the Office of Treaty Affairs. Washington is expecting the original instrument to be delivered in November 2012.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

32. No further information has been reported since 2009.

Namibia

33. Namibia reported in 2007 that it had started the accession process. No further information has been reported since 2007. A representative of Namibia was sponsored to attend the Meeting of Experts in 2012 through the sponsorship programme adopted by the Seventh Review Conference.

Nauru

34. No further information has been reported since 2009.

Niue

35. VERTIC reported in October 2012, that they would be providing, later in the month, a survey of Niue's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC accession and the drafting of national implementing legislation.

Samoa

36. In February 2012, VERTIC reiterated its offer of assistance. In July 2012, VERTIC sent to Samoa's CWC National Authority and the Office of the Attorney General a survey of Samoa's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for BWC accession and the drafting of national implementing legislation. VERTIC reported that a senior official of Samoa responded in September 2012 that "...Samoa has not yet signed up to the BWC. We will do so progressively as we have other accession and ratification work underway". Samoa indicated that they would seek VERTIC's assistance in due course.

South Sudan

37. Since becoming an independent state and joining the United Nations in 2011, South Sudan has not yet indicated its intentions with respect to succeeding or acceding to the Convention. Sudan, of which South Sudan was formerly a part, is a State Party to the Convention. In October 2012, South Sudan took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Vice-Chair in New York.

Tuvalu

38. No further information has been reported since 2011.

Annex

List of States Parties to the Convention

As at 1 November 2012

Afghanistan	China
Albania	Colombia
Algeria	Congo
Antigua and Barbuda	Cook Islands
Argentina	Costa Rica
Armenia	Croatia
Australia	Cuba
Austria	Cyprus
Azerbaijan	Czech Republic
Bahamas	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Bahrain	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Bangladesh	Denmark
Barbados	Dominica
Belarus	Dominican Republic
Belgium	Ecuador
Belize	El Salvador
Benin	Equatorial Guinea
Bhutan	Estonia
Bolivia	Ethiopia
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Fiji
Botswana	Finland
Brazil	France
Brunei Darussalam	Gabon
Bulgaria	Gambia
Burkina Faso	Georgia
Burundi	Germany
Cambodia	Ghana
Canada	Greece
Cape Verde	Grenada
Chile	Guatemala

Guinea-Bissau	Morocco
Holy See	Mozambique
Honduras	Netherlands
Hungary	New Zealand
Iceland	Nicaragua
India	Niger
Indonesia	Nigeria
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Norway
Iraq	Oman
Ireland	Palau
Italy	Pakistan
Jamaica	Panama
Japan	Papua New Guinea
Jordan	Paraguay
Kazakhstan	Peru
Kenya	Philippines
Kuwait	Poland
Kyrgyzstan	Portugal
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Qatar
Latvia	Republic of Moldova
Lebanon	Republic of Korea
Lesotho	Romania
Libya	Russian Federation
Liechtenstein	Rwanda
Lithuania	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Luxembourg	Saint Lucia
Madagascar	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Malaysia	San Marino
Maldives	Sao Tome and Principe
Mali	Saudi Arabia
Malta	Senegal
Mauritius	Serbia
Mexico	Seychelles
Monaco	Sierra Leone
Mongolia	Singapore
Montenegro	Slovakia

Slovenia	Tunisia
Solomon Islands	Turkey
South Africa	Turkmenistan
Spain	Uganda
Sri Lanka	Ukraine
Sudan	United Arab Emirates
Suriname	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Swaziland	United States of America
Sweden	Uruguay
Switzerland	Uzbekistan
Tajikistan	Vanuatu
Thailand	Venezuela
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Viet Nam
Timor Leste	Yemen
Togo	Zambia
Tonga	Zimbabwe
Trinidad and Tobago	
