

**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**

7 November 2013

Original: English

**2013 Meeting**

Geneva, 9–13 December 2013

Item 11 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 Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in 2013. 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 170 States Parties (listed in the Annex), with 10 signatories and 16 states having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 26 states are not party to the Convention.

**I. Introduction**

1. Since the last report on universalization activities (BWC/MSP/2012/3 and Add.1), four states have joined the Convention: Cameroon on 18 January 2013; Nauru on 5 March 2013; Guyana on 26 March 2013; and Malawi on 2 April 2013, bringing the total number of States Parties to 170 (see Annex). A further 10 states have signed but not ratified the Convention and 16 states have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. This report outlines what is known about these 26 states.

**II. Activities to promote universalization**

2. Since the 2012 Meeting of States Parties, the following universalization activities have been undertaken and reported to the Chairman or the ISU:

(a) In the course of Hungary's chairmanship of the Convention in 2013, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary took the opportunity of various meetings to hand over letters urging accession to the Convention to ministerial colleagues from Angola, Myanmar, Namibia, Somalia and South Sudan.

(b) On 20 March 2013, the Chairman hosted an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention at United Nations Headquarters in New York, together with representatives of the Depositary Governments: the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. Eritrea, Israel, South Sudan, Malawi, Myanmar and Tanzania attended the briefing.

(c) From 22-23 April 2013, a member of the ISU participated in the *Workshop on Universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention*, in Luanda, Angola. The workshop was hosted by the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was the result of a collaboration between the United Kingdom, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) and the ISU to organize an outreach event for the CWC and BWC, as Angola is one of the few countries which has joined neither treaty. The event was opened by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola, and attended by officials from a range of Angolan government agencies.

(d) On 25 April 2013, Australia organized an ad hoc meeting of the ISU and a representative of the Depositary Governments with the Attorney-General and Crown Counsel of Tuvalu, who were visiting Geneva on other business.

(e) On 24 June 2013, the Chairman attended a meeting of the African Union in Geneva, and briefed the delegates on BWC issues, including universalization of the Convention in Africa.

(f) Following a request from Myanmar, the ISU, together with VERTIC, offered its support in organizing an awareness-raising workshop on the Convention in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, at a date to be determined.

(g) Three representatives of Myanmar were sponsored to attend the Meeting of Experts in August 2013, through the BWC sponsorship programme and with additional support from the United Kingdom and Germany.

(h) One representative of Nepal, was sponsored to attend the Meeting of Experts in August 2013, through the European Union Action in support of the BWC.

(i) Two representatives of Myanmar and two representatives of Nepal were sponsored by the EU BWC Action to participate in the *Regional Workshop on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention for South and South-East Asia*, organised by UNODA as part of the EU BWC Action and hosted by the Government of Malaysia, from 3-4 September 2013.

(j) Nepal was awarded one of the seven *extended assistance programmes* which are part of the EU BWC Action. Initiating the process of ratification of the BWC will form part of the programme. Initial preparations for activities have started, together with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPPD), and a first workshop is tentatively planned for late January 2014.

(k) Haiti has been invited to the *Regional Workshop on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention for Central America and the Caribbean*, organised by UNODA as part of the EU BWC Action and hosted by the Government of Mexico, from 13-14 November 2013.

(l) On 24 October 2013, on the margins of the First Committee of the General Assembly in New York, the Chairman hosted an informal briefing and discussion on the

Convention, together with one of the Vice-chairs and representatives of the Depositary Governments. Angola, Tanzania, Egypt and Israel attended the briefing.

(m) Throughout the year, the Chairman held a number of bilateral meetings in Geneva and New York with representatives of states not party.

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

(o) 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.

3. To date, three States Parties have reported that they have taken action bilaterally to promote universalization of the Convention in 2013: Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Details are listed in the respective entries in sections IV and V below.

### III. Overview of current status

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 signatories, and interested organizations and entities 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 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, Micronesia, Myanmar*, Nepal*, Niue, Samoa, Syrian Arab Republic*, Tuvalu	9
Latin America and Caribbean	Haiti*	1
Africa	Angola, Central African Republic*, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire*, Djibouti, Egypt*, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia*, Mauritania, Namibia, Somalia*, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania*	15
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	Comoros	1
Accession or ratification process started	Andorra, Angola, Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti*, Myanmar*, Namibia, Nepal*, United Republic of Tanzania*	9
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Central African Republic*, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire*, Eritrea, Liberia*, Mauritania, Samoa, Somalia*, South Sudan, Tuvalu	10
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	3
No information or feedback yet received	Kiribati, Micronesia, Niue	3

\* Signatory (not ratified)

**IV. Signatories***Central African Republic*

6. No further information has been received since 2011.

*Côte d'Ivoire*

7. 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 in New York. On 16 March 2013, the ISU received an e-mail from an official in an unidentified "department" requesting further information to assist Côte d'Ivoire with the ratification process, and enquiring about the possibility of support to attend the Meeting of States Parties.

*Egypt*

8. On 24 October 2013, Egypt took part in an informal briefing and discussion on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in the United Nations in New York hosted by the BWC Chair, together with the Vice-Chair, and representatives of the Depositary Governments of the BWC. Egypt outlined its initiative in support of a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East and expressed interest in exploring the possible role of the BWC in that process.

*Haiti*

9. No information has been received since 2011, when Haitian officials advised that following the catastrophic earthquake in January 2010 which delayed the process of

ratification, the Haitian government was now ready to continue from where it had left off. Haiti has been invited to the *Regional Workshop on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention for Central America and the Caribbean*, to be held in Mexico City from 13-14 November.

#### *Liberia*

10. No further information has been received since 2012.

#### *Myanmar*

11. The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom raised Myanmar's ratification with the Foreign Minister of Myanmar in February 2013. On 20 March 2013, Myanmar took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Chairman in New York. Three capital-based representatives of Myanmar participated in the Meeting of Experts in August 2013. The Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar stated during the Meeting of Experts that "Since the formation of the new government just 30 months ago, [Myanmar] has successfully undertaken many key reforms within a short span of time ... Myanmar is at the same time reviewing its domestic laws that are not in line with international norms and practices. We are also taking progressive steps to further enhance our status in connection with the Biological Weapons Convention, which we signed on 10 April 1972." Myanmar participated in the *Regional Workshop on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention for South and South-East Asia* held in Kuala Lumpur from 3-4 September. The Myanmar representatives showed interest in joining the BWC, as well as other international treaties. Myanmar is currently in discussions with the ISU and VERTIC on organising an awareness-raising workshop on the BWC for national stakeholders in Myanmar in 2014.

#### *Nepal*

12. A capital-based representative of Nepal, sponsored by the European Union BWC Action, participated in the Meeting of Experts in Geneva in August 2013. Nepal, participated in the *Regional Workshop on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention for South and South-East Asia*, held in Kuala Lumpur from 3-4 September. Nepal was awarded one of the seven *extended assistance programmes* which are part of the EU BWC Action. Initiating the process of ratification of the BWC will form part of the programme. Initial preparations for activities have started, together with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), and a first workshop is tentatively planned for late January 2014.

#### *Somalia*

13. No information has been received since 2008.

#### *Syrian Arab Republic*

14. The Syrian Arab Republic has traditionally linked the ratification of the Convention to other regional security considerations. The accession of Syria to the Chemical Weapons Convention may have opened an opportunity for the BWC, but the current situation in Syria poses obvious challenges for pursuing this.

#### *United Republic of Tanzania*

15. 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. On 20 March 2013, Tanzania took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the

Convention, organised by the Chairman in New York, and in the follow-up event on 24 October 2013, but provided no additional information.

## **V. States neither signed nor ratified**

### *Andorra*

16. 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. In January 2013, the British Ambassador in Madrid (accredited to Andorra) raised the issue. The Andorran Foreign Minister replied that the BWC was ready to be introduced and that he hoped Andorra would ratify before the summer of 2013.

### *Angola*

17. In February 2012, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom met with his Angolan counterpart. The 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. From 22 to 24 April 2013, the ISU took part in a *Workshop on Universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention* in Luanda, where it briefed Angolan officials. The workshop was opened personally by the Angolan foreign minister, who spoke of his government's favourable consideration of acceding to both instruments. On 24 October 2013, Angola took part in an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention in New York hosted by the Chairman.

### *Chad*

18. No further information has been received since 2012.

### *Comoros*

19. Information reported in October 2007 indicated that a draft instrument of accession was awaiting signature by the President of Comoros. The British Ambassador in Mauritius (accredited to Comoros) raised the accession with the Comoros Foreign Minister in February 2013.

### *Djibouti*

20. The United States of America reported having demarched Djibouti in 2013.

### *Eritrea*

21. On 20 March 2013, Eritrea took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Chair in New York. The Eritrean representative stated that joining the BWC was a priority, although Eritrea needed time to advance further in the process.

### *Guinea*

22. 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*

23. On 20 March 2013, Israel took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Chair in New York. In April 2013, the Chairman met the Ambassador of Israel in Geneva and discussed Israel's intentions with respect to the Convention. The Ambassador explained in familiar terms why Israel's accession is unlikely in the near future. On 24 October 2013, Israel took part in an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention (BWC) in the United Nations in New York hosted by the BWC Chair, together with the Vice-Chair, and representatives of the Depositary Governments.

*Kiribati*

24. No further information has been reported since 2011.

*Mauritania*

25. 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. The 2012 BWC Chairman was informed by a letter dated 4 December 2012 that the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mauritania announced that his government, recognising the importance of the Convention, would start the accession process as soon as possible.

*Micronesia (Federated States of)*

26. No information has been reported since 2009.

*Namibia*

27. Namibia reported in 2007 that it had started the accession process. A representative of Namibia was sponsored to attend the Meeting of Experts in 2012 through the sponsorship programme adopted by the Seventh Review Conference. The United Kingdom, the United States of America and Germany, delivered a demarche on BWC to the Namibian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 2013.

*Niue*

28. No further information has been reported since 2012.

*Samoa*

29. No further information has been reported since 2012.

*South Sudan*

30. 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. On 20 March 2013, South Sudan took part in an event aimed at promoting the universalization of the Convention, organised by the Chairman in New York. The representative requested the support of the Depositaries in lobbying the capital.

*Tuvalu*

31. The ISU and a representative of the Depositaries met the Attorney-General and Crown Counsel of Tuvalu in Geneva on 25 April 2013, and briefed them on the Convention and the steps needed for joining. The Attorney-General did not think there would be any obstacles to joining the Convention, and undertook to study the material provided.



## Annex

### List of States Parties to the Convention

#### As at 1 November 2013

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

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

---

Sao Tome and Principe	Timor Leste
Saudi Arabia	Togo
Senegal	Tonga
Serbia	Trinidad and Tobago
Seychelles	Tunisia
Sierra Leone	Turkey
Singapore	Turkmenistan
Slovakia	Uganda
Slovenia	Ukraine
Solomon Islands	United Arab Emirates
South Africa	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Spain	United States of America
Sri Lanka	Uruguay
Sudan	Uzbekistan
Suriname	Vanuatu
Swaziland	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Sweden	Viet Nam
Switzerland	Yemen
Tajikistan	Zambia
Thailand	Zimbabwe
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	

## List of signatories to the Convention

### As at 1 November 2013

Central African Republic	Myanmar
Côte d'Ivoire	Nepal
Egypt	Somalia
Haiti	Syrian Arab Republic
Liberia	United Republic of Tanzania

---