

2009 Meeting

Geneva, 7-11 December 2009

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

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 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, one state has completed all internal steps and is preparing to deposit its instrument of accession, seven states are reported to be well advanced in the ratification process, and a further four 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 is reported to have completed all internal steps and is preparing to deposit its instrument of accession. The total number of States Parties now 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.

* Submitted after due date, as soon as required information was available to the Secretariat for inclusion.

2. Since the 2008 Meeting of States Parties, the following universalization activities have been undertaken by the Chairman and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU):

- (i) A member of the ISU participated in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Doha, Qatar from 8 to 11 March 2009 and engaged delegations from the region not currently parties to the Convention.
- (ii) On 21 April 2009, the Chairman wrote to the foreign ministers of Pacific island states not currently members of the Convention.
- (iii) A member of the ISU participated in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 29 April to 1 May 2009 and engaged delegations from the region not currently parties to the Convention. Support was given to the ISU by New Zealand to facilitate contacts with the states not party to the Convention.
- (iv) A member of the ISU briefed participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme on 31 August 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants included individuals from states not party to the Convention.
- (v) In October 2009, in the margins of the First Committee at UN headquarters in New York, the Chairman held meetings with permanent representatives or other officials from states not party.
- (vi) On 9 November 2009, a member of the ISU participated in a Briefing for Egyptian Diplomats, in Geneva.
- (vii) Throughout the year the ISU has remained in regular contact with states not party that have expressed an interest in the Convention, sought assistance to join, or requested additional information.
- (viii) Mindful of Canada's special relationship with countries of the Western Hemisphere, the Chairman worked closely with Ottawa to ensure that a number of demarches were carried out over the course of 2009 at the highest levels, and at various venues.

3. From his first meeting with regional groups in February 2009 and then subsequently, the Chairman requested the support of all States Parties in his effort to promote universalization, especially of those countries which neighbour one or more states not yet party. The Chairman underscored the need for States Parties to build on both historic and contemporary ties within sub-regions to underscore the continuing relevance and importance of membership in the Convention. Over the course of 2009, the Chairman has been pleased to learn of support, activities and demarches undertaken by Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States 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 BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP), which published in April 2009 its report *Building a Global Ban: Why States Have Not Joined the BWC*¹.

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

Geographical region	States not party to the Convention	Total
Asia and Pacific	Israel, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar ² , 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

6. 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, Cameroon, Comoros, Kiribati, Mozambique, Myanmar, Tuvalu, United Republic of Tanzania	8
Accession or ratification process started	Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Namibia, Nepal	4
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Andorra, Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Guyana, Liberia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Nauru, Somalia, Samoa	14
No action expected in near future	Egypt, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic	3

¹ <http://www.bwpp.org/documents/BWPP%20Universalization%20Book.pdf>

² Signatory (not ratified)

Situation	States not party to the Convention	Total
No information or feedback yet received	Eritrea, Guinea, Niue	3

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

- (i) Côte d'Ivoire - as detailed in the BWPP report *Building a Global Ban*, a request has been made for national awareness raising activities amongst key stakeholders and with the Office of the President, and the ISU has received a request for assistance in attending meetings of the Convention.
- (ii) Djibouti – as detailed in the BWPP report *Building a Global Ban*, a request has been made for copies of the Convention to distribute to ministers and their deputies.
- (iii) Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru and Samoa – at the 1540 Workshop in Vanuatu in April 2009, a request was made for assistance in raising awareness about the Convention.

II. Signatories

Burundi

8. The United Kingdom reports having encouraged Burundi to join the Convention. No further information has been made available.

Central African Republic

9. The Central African Republic requested assistance to ratify the Convention in April 2007. Additional feedback from, or information about, the Central African Republic has yet to be received.

Côte d'Ivoire

10. The BWPP report *Building a Global Ban* details the procedures that would need to be followed for the Côte d'Ivoire to join the Convention. It also discusses reasons for the delay in joining as well as the types of activities that might facilitate the process. During the course of 2009, the Permanent Secretary of the 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. The Permanent Secretary is attending the 2009 Meeting of States Parties in an attempt to further these efforts.

Egypt

11. Egypt took part in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Doha, Qatar (8-11 March 2009). As part of their training programme, several Egyptian diplomats participated in a briefing on disarmament matters (Geneva, 9 November 2008). These meetings provided important opportunities to raise awareness and promote universalization of the Convention amongst key stakeholders. Although the respective participants expressed interest in the aims and objectives of the Convention, no further movement seems likely at present.

Guyana

12. The United Kingdom reports having encouraged Guyana to join the Convention. Canada's High Commissioner in Guyana raised the importance of the Convention on several occasions and followed up in writing with that country's foreign minister. Brazil has reported ongoing bilateral contacts to encourage Guyana to join the Convention.

Haiti

13. During a meeting held on the margins of the First Committee at UN headquarters in New York between the Chairman and the permanent representative of Haiti, the latter noted the many priorities facing that country's parliament but undertook to raise the issue with his Foreign Minister. A subsequent Canadian demarche in Port au Prince revealed that the Convention was among several proposed laws and conventions to be voted on by the Haitian parliament, which was awaiting the formation of a new government at that time. Canada's Embassy in Port au Prince continues to follow this issue with the secretaries-general of both Houses of Parliament as well as with the Senate Commission in charge of Foreign Affairs. Brazil has reported ongoing bilateral contacts to encourage Haiti to join the Convention.

Liberia

14. No additional feedback from, or information about, Liberia has been received since the 2008 universalization report.

Malawi

15. Following a demarche by Germany, the foreign ministry of Malawi is currently checking all unsettled international conventions and sees no substantive problem for ratifying the BWC. For 2010, Germany plans to renew its contacts with Malawi and will keep States Parties informed.

Myanmar

16. Following a demarche by Germany, it appears that Myanmar plans are to ratify the BWC and CWC together, as the government recognizes the interrelationship of the two treaties. However, the need for synchronization of national implementation measures for both must be

kept in mind. According to the government of Myanmar, there are no political reasons for the delay. For 2010, Germany plans to renew its contacts with Myanmar and will keep States Parties informed.

Nepal

17. The United Kingdom reports having encouraged Nepal to join the Convention. No further information has been received.

Somalia

18. No additional feedback from, or information about, Somalia has been received since the 2008 universalization report.

Syrian Arab Republic

19. In 2007, the Syrian Arab Republic linked ratifying the Convention to other regional security considerations. The Syrian Arab Republic took part in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Doha, Qatar (8-11 March 2009). Although the participants expressed interest in the aims and objectives of the Convention, no further movement seems likely at present. The United Kingdom also reports having encouraged the Syrian Arab Republic to join the Convention.

United Republic of Tanzania

20. The United Kingdom reports having encouraged the United Republic of Tanzania to join the Convention. Tanzania participated in the 2009 Meeting of Experts, and consultations with the delegation confirmed that the internal process to ratify the Convention is well advanced.

III. States neither signed nor ratified

Andorra

21. France and Spain are planning a joint demarche in early 2010 to encourage Andorra to accede to the Convention.

Angola

22. Following a demarche by Portugal, it appears that the accession process has yet to get under way. Despite recognition in Angola of the importance of joining the Convention, other issues are considered to have a higher priority. Another demarche, made by Germany, was well received, but no assurances were given. For 2010, Germany plans to renew its contacts with Angola and will keep States Parties informed. The BWPP report *Building a Global Ban* suggests that one hurdle to progress might be the paucity of information on the Convention in Portuguese.

Cameroon

23. Cameroon officials reported in November 2009 that the President of Cameroon has signed an act of accession to the Convention, and that all remains to be done are some administrative formalities and the deposit of the instrument of accession. This development followed extended contacts between Chairman and his counterpart from Cameroon in Geneva, acknowledging Cameroon's participation as an observer in the Meetings of Experts, and urging it to accede to the Convention. In Yaounde, Canada's Head of Mission also underscored this message with local authorities. In November, France reported that two demarches, with notes verbales, had been made by the French Embassy in Yaounde.

Chad

24. The BWPP report *Building a Global Ban* indicates that an official stated that the government was unsure whether accession would be in the national interest and that it would need to conduct further cost-benefit analysis before any progress would be possible.

Comoros

25. 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

26. The BWPP report *Building a Global Ban* agrees with universalization reports by previous chairs that low levels of awareness of the Convention in Djibouti might be seriously impeding accession.

Eritrea

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

Guinea

28. Guinea participated in the ISU French language awareness raising and universalization seminar (Geneva, 12 June 2008). Feedback from, or information about, Guinea has yet to be received.

Israel

29. No additional feedback from, or information about, Israel has been received since the 2008 universalization report. Japan encouraged Israel to join the Convention during bilateral consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Kiribati

30. No additional information has been received from Kiribati since the 2008 universalization report.

Mauritania

31. No additional feedback from, or information about, Mauritania has been received since the 2008 universalization report.

Marshall Islands

32. The Marshall Islands took part in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 29 April to 1 May 2009. The representative of the Marshall Islands recognised the importance of joining the Convention and undertook to follow up with the appropriate authorities.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

33. The Federated States of Micronesia took part in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 29 April to 1 May 2009. The Micronesian representative expressed interest in the Convention and suggested that there was considerable need for additional awareness raising and outreach in the region. He recognised the importance of joining the Convention undertook to follow up with the appropriate authorities.

Mozambique

34. A demarche by Portugal on acceding to the Convention has confirmed that the issue is being pursued by the Legal Department and that the internal process is well advanced.

Namibia

35. Namibia reported in 2007 that it had started the accession process. Following a demarche by Germany, Namibia explained that ratifying the Convention is a cross-cutting issue that requires both the coordination of several ministries and an analysis of costs. A decision for ratification will be taken "when the time is ripe". For 2010, Germany plans to renew its contacts with Namibia and will keep States Parties informed.

Nauru

36. Nauru took part in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 29 April to 1 May 2009. The representative of Nauru expressed interest in the Convention and suggested that there was considerable need for additional awareness raising and outreach in the region. He recognised the importance of joining the Convention and undertook to follow up with the appropriate authorities.

Niue

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

Samoa

38. Samoa took part in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 29 April to 1 May 2009. The Samoan representative expressed interest in the Convention and suggested that there was considerable need for additional awareness raising and outreach in the region.

Tuvalu

39. Tuvalu took part in the Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 29 April to 1 May 2009. The representative of Tuvalu recognised the importance of joining the Convention and undertook to follow up with the appropriate authorities.
