

**Eighth Review Conference 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**

31 May 2016

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Preparatory Committee

Geneva, 26-27 April and 8-12 August 2016

Item 7 of the agenda

Comprehensive consideration of all provisions of the Convention

History and operation of the confidence-building measures

**Background information document submitted by the Implementation
Support Unit**

Summary

The Preparatory Committee decided to request the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to prepare a background information document on the history and operation of the confidence-building measures (CBMs) agreed at the Second Review Conference and revised at the Third and Seventh Review Conferences, with the document to include data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the measures since the last Review Conference (see BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/2, paragraph 25). The ISU has duly prepared this document which outlines the history and operation of the CBMs. Annex I provides data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the measures since the last Review Conference while Annex II presents the standard detailed information on CBM returns submitted so far in 2016.

I. History of the CBMs

1. States Parties agreed the concept and general content of the CBMs during the Second Review Conference in 1986, introducing four CBMs. The Conference did not specify the modalities for submission, or the forms on which to submit, but established for this purpose an "Ad Hoc Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts from States Parties to Finalise the Modalities for the Exchange of Information and Data", which was held in 1987. The Third Review Conference in 1991 re-examined the CBMs and agreed to modify and expand them. The Fourth Review Conference also examined the CBMs but did not make any changes. The Sixth Review Conference considered the CBMs and revised and updated various aspects of the procedure for submitting, collating and publishing the CBMs, and for reporting on participation. The Seventh Review Conference took steps to make CBMs more

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user friendly by adopting revised reporting forms and decided to consider how to enable fuller participation in the CBMs during the intersessional programme in 2012 and 2013. Moreover, the Conference requested the ISU, in cooperation with States Parties, to continue examining and developing options for electronic means of submission of CBMs.

A. Second Review Conference (8–26 September 1986)

2. The Second Review Conference (see BWC/CONF.II/13) "mindful of the provisions of Article V and Article X of the Convention, and determined to strengthen its authority and to enhance confidence in the implementation of its provisions" agreed that "the States Parties are to implement, on the basis of mutual co-operation, the following measures, in order to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions, and in order to improve international co-operation in the field of peaceful bacteriological (biological) activities". The "following measures", which became known as the Confidence-Building Measures or CBMs, were:

- **CBM A** – Exchange of data, including name, location, scope and general description of their activities, on research centres and laboratories that meet very high national or international safety standards established for handling, for permitted purposes, biological materials that pose a high individual and community risk or specialise in permitted biological activities directly related to the Convention;
- **CBM B** – Exchange of information on all outbreaks of infectious disease and similar occurrences caused by toxins that seem to deviate from the normal pattern as regards type, development, place, or time of occurrence. If possible, the information provided would include, as soon as it is available, data on the type of disease, approximate area affected, and number of cases.
- **CBM C** – Exchange of information on encouragement of publication of results of biological research directly related to the Convention, in scientific journals generally available to States Parties, as well as promotion of use for permitted purposes of knowledge gained in this research.
- **CBM D** – Exchange of information on active promotion of contacts between scientists engaged in biological research directly related to the Convention, including exchanges for joint research on a mutual agreed basis.

3. The Second Review Conference did not go further than this outline of what information should be exchanged, but decided "to hold an ad hoc meeting of scientific and technical experts from States Parties to finalise the modalities for the exchange of information and data by working out, inter alia, appropriate forms to be used by States Parties for the exchange of information agreed to in this Final Declaration, thus enabling States Parties to follow a standardised procedure". This group was to meet in Geneva for the period 31 March to 15 April 1987 and was to communicate the results of the work to the States Parties immediately thereafter.

4. The Second Review Conference also established an interim mechanism to provide for exchanges of information prior to decisions on the modalities. The Conference urged States Parties to promptly apply these four CBMs and report the data to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA), and requested UNDDA to make available the information received to all States Parties.

B. Ad Hoc Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts from States Parties to finalise the modalities for the exchange of information and data (31 March–15 April 1987)

5. Representatives from 39 States Parties participated in this meeting, and an expert from the World Health Organization (WHO) was on hand to answer technical questions. Its report (BWC/CONF.II/EX/2) recorded a number of understandings and agreements detailing the modalities for the CBMs. These included agreements that:

(a) All information submitted should be provided in one of the authentic languages of the Convention and be sent to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and be promptly forwarded, in the form received, to all States Parties;

(b) The information should also be made available to the World Health Organization;

(c) The first exchange of information and data should take place as soon as possible and be sent to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs not later than 15 October 1987; and

(d) Thereafter information should be given on an annual basis, should be provided not later than 15 April, and should cover the previous calendar year.

6. The meeting agreed on guidelines on what each measure covered and on the type of information to be provided for each: for example, what kind of research centres were to be included in CBM A, and what constituted a disease outbreak that "deviated from the normal pattern", and should thus be included in CBM B. The meeting produced standard forms for CBMs A, B and D (no form was produced for CBM C).

7. There was also discussion of the financial implications of the CBM process. The report noted that while General Assembly resolution 41/58 A (1986) had requested the United Nations Secretary-General to "render the necessary assistance and provide such services as may be required for the implementation of relevant parts of the Final Declaration" of the Second Review Conference, the United Nations Secretariat had stated that "such services and assistance would have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and that all related costs would be met by the States Parties to the Convention in accordance with the rules of procedure adopted by the Second Review Conference"¹. This left the situation rather unclear: the United Nations was not to pay for the operation of the CBMs from its regular budget, but neither did the BWC States Parties explicitly undertake to meet the costs.

C. Third Review Conference (9–27 September 1991)

8. In accordance with the decision of the Second Review Conference, the Third Review Conference considered the effectiveness of the CBMs. To this end, States Parties noted the importance of the process and recognised the exchange of information that took place between 1987 and 1991. The significance of the CBMs was further highlighted by including mention of them, for the first time, in the Solemn Declaration which opened the Final Declaration of that conference. States Parties solemnly declared: "Their determination to enhance the implementation and effectiveness of the Convention and to further strengthen its authority, including through the confidence-building measures." All States Parties were urged to submit information to future rounds of information exchange. A

¹ Note from the Secretariat, A/C.1/41/9.

specific call was made to States Parties which did not take part in the Third Review Conference to participate in the implementation of the agreed CBMs.

9. The review of the CBMs resulted in a number of proposals for alterations, several of which reached consensus. The Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference (BWC/CONF.III/23) states:

"With a view to promoting increased participation and strengthening further the exchange of information, the Conference agrees to reaffirm those measures established at the Second Review Conference with the following improvements: to add a declaration on "Nothing to declare" or "Nothing new to declare"; to amend and extend the exchange of data on research centres and laboratories; to amend the exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins; to amend the measure for the active promotion of contacts; and to add three new confidence-building measures entitled "Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures"; "Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research development programmes"; and "Declaration of vaccine production facilities".

These amendments established a set of seven CBMs, which included:

- Declaration form on "Nothing to declare" or "Nothing new to declare";
- CBM A: Research centres, laboratories and biological defence research and development programmes:
 - Part 1: Exchange of data on research centres and laboratories;
 - Part 2: Exchange of information on national biological defence research and development programmes;
- CBM B: Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins;
- CBM C: Encouragement of publication of results and promotion of use of knowledge;
- CBM D: Active promotion of contacts;
- CBM E: Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures;
- CBM F: Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes;
- CBM G: Declaration of vaccine production facilities.

10. The Third Review Conference updated the forms for use in submissions in line with these changes, and revised the guidelines on the information that should be provided (the guidelines were integrated into the forms)

11. The Conference reconfirmed that submissions using the new forms should be sent to the United Nations Department (now Office) for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) no later than 15 April on an annual basis and should cover the previous calendar year.

12. States Parties also noted that the new and the revised procedures would add further duties to, and make even greater demands on the time of, UNODA. As a result, the United Nations Secretary-General was requested to allocate the necessary staff resources and other requirements based in UNODA in Geneva to assist their effective implementation. The Secretary-General was requested to receive, compile, and make available to States Parties information related to the implementation of the Convention and of the decisions of the Third Review Conference. It was suggested that the UNODA computer database system could facilitate this work.

D. Fourth Review Conference (25 November–6 December 1996)

13. The commitment of States Parties to the CBM process was reiterated in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference (BWC/CONF.IV/9). This opened with States Parties solemnly declaring "Their determination to enhance the implementation and effectiveness of the Convention and to further strengthen its authority, including through the confidence-building measures agreed by the Second and Third Review Conferences". In accordance with the decision of the Third Review Conference, the Fourth Review Conference reviewed the effectiveness of the CBMs. States Parties welcomed the exchange of information carried out under the CBMs. The continued importance of the CBMs was noted, as was their contribution to enhancing transparency and building confidence. Some scope for further improvement was, however, acknowledged. The Fourth Review Conference recognized that participation since the Third Review Conference had not been universal, and that not all responses had been prompt or complete. In this regard, States Parties recognized the technical difficulties experienced by some of their number with respect to preparing CBM responses. The Conference urged all States Parties to complete full and timely declarations in the future.

14. The Conference also noted that the Ad Hoc Group established by the 1994 Special Conference was, as part of its work, considering the incorporation of existing and further enhanced confidence-building and transparency measures, as appropriate, into a regime to strengthen the Convention. It is possible that this continuing work of the Ad Hoc Group was the main reason the Fourth Review Conference did not make any changes to the CBMs.

E. Fifth Review Conference (19 November–7 December 2001 and 11–22 November 2002)

15. Unlike earlier review conferences, the Fifth Review Conference did not adopt a Final Declaration. As a result, it took no decisions in relation to the CBMs.

F. Sixth Review Conference (20 November–8 December 2006)

16. The Sixth Review Conference commented on the CBMs in similar terms as the Fourth, welcoming the exchange of information and the contribution this made to enhancing transparency and building confidence, but noting the limited number of States Parties making an annual CBM submission. Despite proposals from several States Parties, the Conference did not reach agreement on revising or amending the CBM forms. But the Conference did recognise "the urgent need to increase the number of States Parties participating in CBMs" and "in order to update the mechanism of transmission of information"², agreed on several specific measures concerning the procedural aspects of the CBMs, and gave related tasks to the newly-formed ISU. Significant changes to the previous arrangements included provision for electronic submission and publication of CBMs, nomination of a national contact point by States Parties, and a reminder notice to be sent to States Parties three months before the submission deadline.

² BWC/CONF.VI/6, Part II, paragraph 24.

17. The specific measures agreed by the Sixth Review Conference were as follows³:

(a) The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) within the United Nations Department [now Office] for Disarmament Affairs, with the assistance of interested States Parties, shall develop an electronic format of the existing CBM forms.

(b) Once completed, the electronic forms shall, with the consent of the State Party submitting them, be posted on a secure Internet site and made available for the use of States Parties, to be developed under the auspices of the ISU. The information thus supplied by a State Party must not be circulated further without the express permission of that State Party.

(c) States Parties are invited to submit forms using the electronic format. States Parties that wish to submit completed paper forms instead of electronic forms may do so. The ISU shall insert the submitted hard copy data in the secure Internet site with the consent of the State Party providing this data in order to make it electronically available to all States Parties.

(d) The ISU shall centralize requests and offers of assistance regarding the submission of CBMs.

(e) The ISU shall regularly inform States Parties about CBM returns and provide statistics on the level of participation at the annual meetings of States Parties.

(f) States Parties shall designate a national point of contact in charge of preparing the submission of CBMs, the contact details of which shall be sent to the ISU.

(g) The ISU shall circulate to points of contact a notice informing States Parties of the deadline for submitting information under the information exchange procedure (15 April) at least three months prior to this deadline.

18. In addition, the Conference included the following CBM-related tasks in the mandate of the ISU⁴:

(a) Receiving and distributing confidence-building measures (CBMs) to/from States Parties;

(b) Sending information notices to States Parties regarding their annual submissions;

(c) Compiling and distributing data on CBMs and informing on participation at each Meeting of States Parties;

(d) Developing and maintaining a secure website on CBMs to be accessible only to States Parties;

(e) Serving as an information exchange point for assistance related to preparation of CBMs;

(f) Facilitating activities to promote participation in the CBM process, as agreed by the States Parties.

19. The Conference also agreed that the CBMs merited "further and comprehensive attention" at the Seventh Review Conference.

³ See BWC/CONF.VI/6, Part III, paragraph 8.

⁴ See BWC/CONF.VI/6, Part III, paragraph 5 B.

G. Seventh Review Conference (5-22 December 2011)

20. The Seventh Review Conference emphasized in similar terms as the Sixth Review Conference the importance of the exchange of information among States Parties through the CBMs. States Parties welcomed the exchange of information carried out under these measures and noted that this has contributed to enhancing transparency and building confidence. In addition, and in view of the small increase in the percentage of submissions by State Parties since the Sixth Review Conference, the Conference recognized the urgent need to increase the number of States Parties participating in CBMs and called upon all States Parties to participate annually. Moreover, it called upon States Parties that have not yet done so to designate a national point of contact responsible for preparing the submission of CBMs, in accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference.

21. The Conference also recalled the procedures for submission and exchange of information and data as agreed at previous Conferences and recognised the technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties in completing full and timely submissions. The Conference urged those States Parties in a position to do so, to provide technical assistance and support, through training for instance, to those States Parties requesting it to assist them to complete their annual CBM submissions. Furthermore, the Conference noted the desirability of making the CBMs more user-friendly and stressed the need to ensure that they provide relevant and appropriate information to States Parties.

22. The specific measures agreed by the Seventh Review Conference were as follows⁵:

(a) to adopt revised reporting forms as the basis for all CBM submissions from States Parties⁶ (CBM D: 'Active promotion of contacts' was deleted);

(b) to consider during the 2012–2015 intersessional programme how to enable fuller participation in the CBMs;

(c) that the Implementation Support Unit shall, in cooperation with States Parties, continue to examine and develop options for electronic means of submission of CBMs.

23. The Seventh Review Conference reached agreement that the Meeting of Experts in 2012 and 2013 would prepare a factual report reflecting deliberations on CBMs to be considered by the respective Meeting of State Parties. The Conference also noted that the Eighth Review Conference would then consider the work and outcome of these meetings and decide on any further action.

H. 2012-2015 Intersessional programme

24. In accordance with the decision taken by the Seventh Review Conference, in 2012 and 2013 States Parties addressed the topic of "How to enable fuller participation in the CBMs". Discussions focussed in both years on addressing the practical and technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties in completing full and timely submissions. Accordingly, States Parties agreed to work to⁷:

⁵ See BWC/CONF.VII/7, paragraph 25.

⁶ The revised forms for the submission of Confidence Building Measures as agreed by the Seventh Review Conference can be found in BWC/CONF.VII/7, Annex I.

⁷ See BWC/MSP/2012/5, paragraph 42 and BWC/MSP/2013/5, paragraph 46.

- (a) Find ways to improve participation, including through raising awareness and training;
- (b) Make the CBM submissions more user-friendly;
- (c) Promote their possible utility in improving domestic coordination and in enhancing domestic understanding of national activity to be reported in the CBMs;
- (d) Provide further technical assistance and support to States Parties, on request, for preparing and submitting CBM submissions, including through bilateral cooperation on CBMs and the provision of assistance, using the national point of contact list available on the ISU website;
- (e) Continue to develop the electronic CBM platform that was demonstrated at the Meeting of States Parties in 2014, including through collaborating with the ISU to test and refine the system;
- (f) Further improve access by States Parties to the information submitted in CBMs by examining the financial and technical feasibility, benefits and implications of various means of making CBM submissions available in more UN languages;
- (g) Convene regional seminars and workshops to promote awareness of CBMs and to provide an opportunity for States Parties to report on their difficulties and needs for assistance;
- (h) Consider a "step-by-step" approach in CBM participation whereby States Parties submit CBM forms separately or one by one, as the information is collected and updated, working towards the end goal of updating and completing CBM submissions while upholding the Decisions of the Seventh Review Conference. In this approach, submitting a "less than perfect" CBM initially, and subsequently updating and completing it, would not have negative consequences.

25. In the course of their discussions, States Parties recognized the importance of annual exchanges of information to provide transparency and build mutual trust among them. As such, they agreed on the importance of all States Parties participating in, and reiterating to others the importance of, the CBMs. In addition, they noted the value of encouraging States Parties that have not participated regularly in the CBMs or have never participated, to share information on the specific reasons on why they do not participate. States Parties also noted the value of considering voluntarily making all, or part, of their CBM returns public.

26. States Parties also recalled that they are to designate a National Point of Contact as agreed at the Sixth Review Conference and reiterated at the Seventh Review Conference. Furthermore, they recognised the value of the Chairman writing each year to all States Parties to remind them of the call by the Seventh Review Conference to participate annually in the CBMs and to include in this reminder a request for information on issues affecting their participation in the CBMs.

II. Operation of the CBMs

27. The annual process of submitting, compiling and distributing the CBMs places operational requirements both on States Parties and on the ISU/UNODA, as the supporting institution.

A. Undertakings by States Parties

28. As noted above, every State Party to the Convention is to provide a CBM return each and every year, even if it is only to acknowledge that it has nothing to declare or nothing new to declare. Returns are to use the CBM forms (BWC/CONF.VII/7, Annex I to the Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference), electronic versions of which are available from the ISU website (www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms). The forms begin with a cover declaration to allow States Parties to indicate if they have "Nothing to Declare" or "Nothing New to Declare" for each of the six measures covered. Returns covering the previous calendar year are to be submitted to the ISU by 15 April annually. Returns can be—and are—submitted in any of the official languages of the United Nations.

29. Until 2006, there was no requirement for States Parties to nominate a national contact point for dealing with the CBMs. This has changed with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference that States Parties "shall designate a national point of contact in charge of preparing the submission of CBMs". Since that decision, as of May 2016 106 States Parties had nominated a national contact point.

30. As encouraged by the Seventh Review Conference, a number of States Parties in a position to do so have offered to provide technical assistance and support to those States Parties requesting it to assist them to complete their annual CBM submissions. As of May 2016, such offers have been made by Canada, Cuba, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Details of these offers of assistance are available in the Cooperation and Assistance Database on the BWC website.

B. Role of the Implementation Support Unit

31. Until 2006, as mandated by the decisions of the Review Conferences, UNODA received the CBM submissions from States Parties, and compiled them "in the form received" (i.e. without translation, editing, formatting, or any other alteration) into a single document. This document, typically over 1,000 pages in length and containing a mixture of all six official languages, was then printed and distributed to the permanent missions of States Parties in New York and Geneva. Late submissions from States Parties were published in addendum documents, which were produced and distributed in the same way. UNODA was not explicitly authorised to send reminders, to follow-up late or non-submission, or to provide assistance to help States Parties to complete and submit returns.

32. As noted above, the Sixth Review Conference substantially revised and updated the submission and distribution procedure, and gave responsibility for managing the CBM process to the ISU. Since 2007, the ISU has been administering the CBMs in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Conference. Specifically, the ISU:

- (a) Provides electronic versions of the blank CBM forms.
- (b) Sends a reminder notice to States Parties, three months before the 15 April annual submission deadline.
- (c) Receives CBM submissions from States Parties, and unless instructed otherwise by the submitting State Party, places each submission on the ISU's restricted-access website (www.unog.ch/bwc/restricted – accessible only to States Parties).
 - (i) Where the submitting State Party so requests, the ISU also places its CBM submission on the open-access website, where it is freely accessible to the general public.

- (ii) Where the submitting requests that its submission not be placed on any website, the ISU circulates the submission to all States Parties in hard copy only.
- (d) Answers queries and provides guidance, on request, to States Parties on completing their CBM submissions, and facilitates the provision of assistance, where needed.
- (e) Assists States Parties, on request, with any activities, workshops, etc, to promote or discuss the CBMs; and
- (f) Provides basic statistical data on participation in the CBMs in its annual report to States Parties.

33. The ISU is not mandated to carry out any analysis of the content of CBM returns, and due to variations in the format and language of submissions, can only compile the most basic statistics on participation. These statistics, based on the information provided by States Parties in Form 0, are published in the ISU's annual reports to States Parties. The ISU has noted that there are a number of differing approaches to completing the information in Form 0 which presents challenges for the ISU in preparing an accurate data set for its annual reports. At the Eighth Review Conference, States Parties may consider revisions to Form 0 to make it more user-friendly and to reduce the scope for differing approaches to completing the information.

34. In accordance with the specific request of the Seventh Review Conference, the ISU, in collaboration with interested States Parties and with support provided under EU Council Decision 2012/421/CFSP in support of the Convention, examined possibilities for developing a method to complete and submit CBMs over the Internet.⁸

35. Upon development of a phased plan, the Information and Communication Technology Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva developed in 2013 a prototype of an electronic platform ('CBM Electronic Facility') for completing and submitting the forms. Subsequently, a group of States Parties (Belgium, Malaysia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) tested the platform during 2014. Additionally, some discussions started to ensure that existing tools developed by States Parties for their national use would be compatible with this system.

36. It was originally expected that a beta-version of this tool would be available early in 2015. However due the conclusion of EU Council Decision 2012/421/CFSP in January 2015 and the major turnover of staff in the ISU, the project came to a temporary standstill. Pending adequate staffing and resources, the ISU will continue with the project in 2016 with a view to having a stable platform ready in 2017.

37. As one of the outputs of Council Decision 2012/421/CFSP, adopted in 23 July 2012 by the Council of the European Union, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs developed a revised Guide to Participating in the Confidence-Building Measures of the Biological Weapons Convention. While having no formal status, the document was prepared in accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference and is intended to provide practical advice and guidance to officials responsible for preparing CBM submissions. The guide includes:

- (a) Background information on the CBM process;
- (b) General advice for preparing to participate in the CBMs; and

⁸ See 2012 – 2014 Reports of the Implementation Support Unit: BWC/MSP/2012/2, paragraph 22; BWC/MSP/2013/4, paragraph 19; BWC/MSP/2014/4, paragraphs 20 and 21.

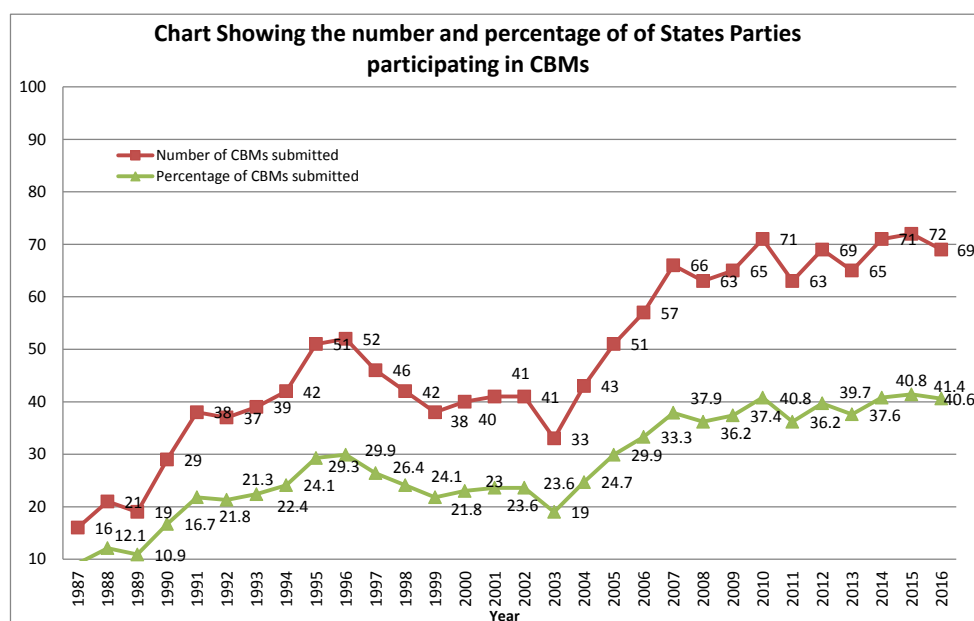
(c) Detailed guidance on gathering the specific information required for each form.

38. The document is available in all six official UN official languages of the United Nations. A revised English version was made available in 2015. Revised Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish versions were made available in 2013. The Guide, which is available free to States Parties, can be downloaded from the BWC website ([www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms/participating in cbms](http://www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms/participating%20in%20cbms)).

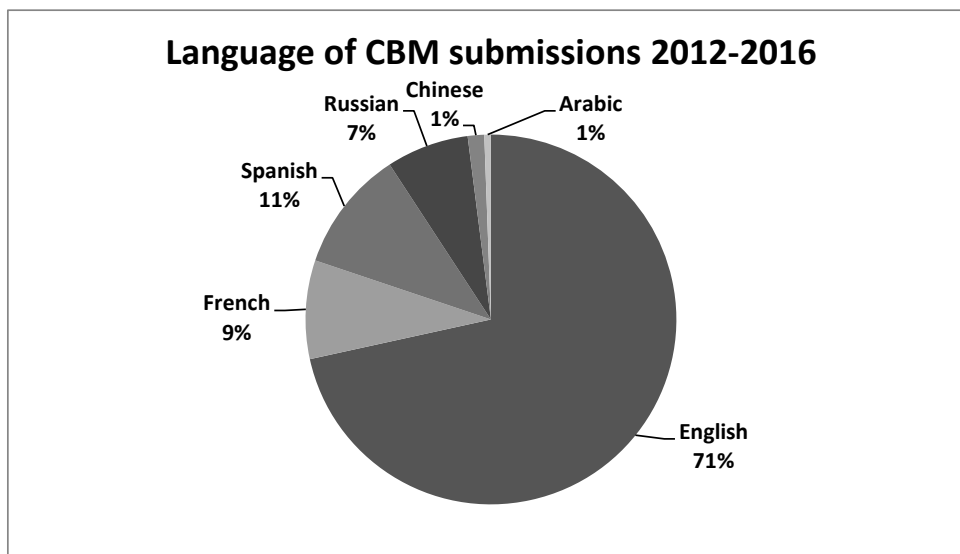
39. In addition, the ISU assists States Parties, on request, with activities to promote or discuss the CBMs and provides basic guidance and assistance to States Parties with regard to the compilation and submission of CBMs. Furthermore, the ISU during its outreach activities raises awareness about the importance of participating in CBMs.

C. Participation

40. The level of participation in the CBMs has remained low over the course of the last five years with a total of 90 States Parties providing information. A total of 50 of those States Parties have participated every year since the Seventh Review Conference. Ten States Parties have submitted CBMs for the first time during the last five years and one State Party for the first time ever as an independent State. Between 65 and 72 submissions were received annually between 2012 and 2016 with 33 to 44 percent of them made publicly available on the BWC website. Annex I shows data in summary tabular form on the participation of States Parties in the CBMs each year since the Seventh Review Conference, while Annex II provides the standard detailed information on CBM returns submitted as of 27 May 2016 for calendar year 2015. Additionally, the chart below presents the overall trend of CBM submissions by States Parties between 1987 and May 2016.



41. As mentioned above, CBMs can be submitted in any official language and there is no budget for the CBMs to be translated into any other languages. The chart below gives details on the languages of submission of the almost 350 individual CBM returns submitted between 2012 and May 2016.



III. Conclusions

42. Since States Parties' agreement on the concept and general content of the CBMs during the Second Review Conference in 1986 and the first exchange of information and data in 1987, they have evolved over time with revisions made at the Third and Seventh Review Conferences. While there has been over the course of the years a slow, but steady increase in the submissions made by States Parties, the overall level of participation remains low with less than half of all States Parties having regularly exchanged information and data. The Seventh Review Conference therefore decided to consider how to enable fuller participation in the CBMs during the intersessional programme in 2012 and 2013. At these meetings, States Parties agreed to work on several activities aimed at addressing the technical difficulties experienced by some States Parties.

43. As shown by the table in Annex I, participation in the CBMs has barely increased in the years since the Seventh Review Conference. The majority of those States Parties which do participate do so on a regular basis. However, several States Parties participate irregularly, and over half of BWC States Parties do not participate at all. The ISU does not have the resources to expand the scope of the limited assistance that it offers upon request to States Parties. Furthermore, the ISU has received little information from States Parties that have not participated regularly in the CBMs or have never participated, on the specific reasons on why they do not participate.

Annex I

[English only]

Participation in the CBMs since the Seventh Review Conference

Key: x = participated in that year; the Review Conference Year is highlighted in grey; Cut-off date for CBMs submitted in 2016 and reflected in the below table: 27 May 2016.

No.	State Party	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	Afghanistan					
2	Albania			x	x	x
3	Algeria			x	x	x
4	Andorra					
5	Antigua and Barbuda					
6	Argentina	x	x	x	x	x
7	Armenia				x	x
8	Australia	x	x	x	x	x
9	Austria	x	x	x	x	x
10	Azerbaijan	x		x	x	
11	Bahamas					
12	Bahrain					
13	Bangladesh					
14	Barbados					
15	Belarus	x	x	x	x	x
16	Belgium	x	x	x	x	x
17	Belize					
18	Benin					
19	Bhutan	x	x		x	
20	Bolivia					
21	Bosnia and Herzegovina					
22	Botswana					
23	Brazil	x	x	x	x	x
24	Brunei Darussalam			x		
25	Bulgaria	x	x	x	x	
26	Burkina Faso					
27	Burundi					
28	Cambodia					

<i>No.</i>	<i>State Party</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>
29	Cameroon					X
30	Canada	X	X	X	X	X
31	Cape Verde					
32	Chile	X	X	X	X	X
33	China	X	X	X	X	X
34	Colombia	X		X	X	X
35	Congo					
36	Cook Islands					
37	Costa Rica					
38	Côte d'Ivoire					
39	Croatia	X	X	X	X	
40	Cuba	X	X	X	X	X
41	Cyprus	X	X	X	X	X
42	Czech Republic	X	X	X	X	X
43	Democratic People's Republic of Korea					
44	Democratic Republic of the Congo					
45	Denmark	X	X	X	X	X
46	Dominica					
47	Dominican Republic					
48	Ecuador	X	X	X	X	X
49	El Salvador					
50	Equatorial Guinea					
51	Estonia		X	X	X	X
52	Ethiopia					
53	Fiji					
54	Finland	X	X	X	X	X
55	France	X	X	X	X	X
56	Gabon					X
57	Gambia					
58	Georgia	X	X	X	X	X
59	Germany	X	X	X	X	X
60	Ghana					
61	Greece	X	X	X	X	
62	Grenada					
63	Guatemala					
64	Guinea-Bissau					
65	Guyana					

<i>No.</i>	<i>State Party</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>
66	Holy See					
67	Honduras					
68	Hungary	x	x	x	x	x
69	Iceland					
70	India	x	x	x	x	x
71	Indonesia				x	
72	Iran (Islamic Republic of)					
73	Iraq	x	x	x	x	x
74	Ireland			x	x	x
75	Italy	x	x	x	x	
76	Jamaica					
77	Japan	x	x	x	x	x
78	Jordan		x	x	x	x
79	Kazakhstan				x	
80	Kenya	x		x	x	
81	Kuwait					
82	Kyrgyzstan			x	x	
83	Lao People's Democratic Republic					
84	Latvia	x	x	x	x	x
85	Lebanon	x		x		x
86	Lesotho					
87	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	x	x	x		
88	Liechtenstein	x	x	x	x	x
89	Lithuania	x	x	x	x	x
90	Luxembourg	x		x	x	x
91	Madagascar	x				
92	Malawi					x
93	Malaysia	x	x	x	x	x
94	Maldives					
95	Mali					
96	Malta	x	x	x	x	x
97	Marshall Islands					
98	Mauritania					
99	Mauritius				x	x
100	Mexico	x	x	x	x	x
101	Monaco					
102	Mongolia					

No.	State Party	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
103	Montenegro					X
104	Morocco	X	X		X	
105	Mozambique					
106	Myanmar					X
107	Nauru					
108	Netherlands	X	X	X	X	X
109	New Zealand	X	X	X	X	X
110	Nicaragua		X			
111	Niger					
112	Nigeria					
113	Norway	X	X	X	X	X
114	Oman					X
115	Pakistan	X				
116	Palau					
117	Panama					
118	Papua New Guinea					
119	Paraguay					
120	Peru		X	X	X	
121	Philippines					
122	Poland	X	X	X	X	X
123	Portugal	X	X	X	X	X
124	Qatar	X	X	X	X	X
125	Republic of Korea	X	X	X	X	X
126	Republic of Moldova	X	X	X	X	X
127	Romania	X	X	X	X	X
128	Russian Federation	X	X	X	X	X
129	Rwanda					
130	Saint Kitts and Nevis					
131	Saint Lucia					
132	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					
133	San Marino					
134	Sao Tome and Principe					
135	Saudi Arabia					
136	Senegal		X	X		
137	Serbia	X	X	X	X	X
138	Seychelles					X
139	Sierra Leone					

<i>No.</i>	<i>State Party</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>
140	Singapore	x	x	x	x	x
141	Slovakia	x	x	x	x	x
142	Slovenia	x	x	x	x	x
143	Solomon Islands					
144	South Africa	x	x	x	x	x
145	Spain	x	x	x	x	x
146	Sri Lanka					
147	Sudan					
148	Suriname					
149	Swaziland					
150	Sweden	x	x	x	x	x
151	Switzerland	x	x	x	x	x
152	Tajikistan					
153	Thailand	x	x	x		x
154	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia					
155	Timor-Leste					
156	Togo					
157	Tonga					
158	Trinidad and Tobago					
159	Tunisia					
160	Turkey	x	x	x	x	x
161	Turkmenistan	x				
162	Uganda					
163	Ukraine	x	x	x	x	x
164	United Arab Emirates					
165	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	x	x	x	x	x
166	United States of America	x	x	x	x	x
167	Uruguay					
168	Uzbekistan	x	x	x	x	x
169	Vanuatu					
170	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)					
171	Viet Nam					
172	Yemen	x	x			
173	Zambia					
174	Zimbabwe	x				
Totals		69	65	71	72	69

Annex II

[English only]

Report on participation in the Confidence-Building Measures

Summary of participation in 2015

Key: D = declaration submitted; ND = nothing to declare; NN = nothing new to declare.

<i>State Party</i>	<i>A1</i>	<i>A2</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>
Albania	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Algeria	NN	ND	D	D	NN	NN	D
Argentina	D	ND	D	D	NN	ND	D
Armenia	D	ND	D	NN	D	ND	ND
Australia	NN	D	D	D	NN	NN	NN
Austria	NN	NN	ND	ND	NN	NN	ND
Belarus	D	D	D	NN	D	D	ND
Belgium	ND	D	ND	D	D	ND	D
Brazil	D	ND	D	ND	D	D	D
Cameroon	ND	ND	D	ND	D	ND	D
Canada	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
Chile	NN	NN	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
China	D	D	ND	D	D	NN	D
Colombia	NN	ND	NN	ND	D	ND	D
Cuba	D	D	ND	D	ND	NN	D
Cyprus	ND	ND	ND	NN	NN	ND	ND
Czech Republic	NN	NN	ND	D	NN	NN	D
Denmark	ND	NN	ND	ND	NN	NN	NN
Ecuador	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	ND	ND
Estonia	NN	ND	NN	ND	NN	ND	ND
Finland	D	D	ND	D	D	ND	ND
France	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Gabon	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN
Georgia	ND	D	ND	D	NN	D	D

<i>State Party</i>	<i>A1</i>	<i>A2</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>
Germany	D	D	D	D	NN	NN	D
Hungary	D	NN	D	D	NN	NN	D
India	D	D	NN	NN	D	D	NN
Iraq	NN	ND	D	ND	NN	ND	NN
Ireland	D	D	D	D	D	ND	D
Japan	NN	D	ND	D	D	NN	NN
Jordan	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Latvia	D	D	ND	ND	NN	NN	ND
Lebanon	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Liechtenstein	ND	ND	NN	NN	NN	ND	ND
Lithuania	NN	ND	D	ND	NN	ND	NN
Luxembourg	NN	ND	NN	NN	NN	ND	ND
Malawi	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Malaysia	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Malta	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN
Mauritius	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Mexico	D	ND	D	D	NN	ND	NN
Montenegro	D	ND	ND	ND	D	ND	ND
Myanmar	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	D
Netherlands	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
New Zealand	D	ND	NN	ND	NN	NN	ND
Norway	ND	NN	ND	NN	D	NN	NN
Oman	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	NDD	ND
Poland	D	D	ND	D	D	ND	NN
Portugal	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	NN	NN
Qatar	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND
Republic of Korea	NN	D	ND	ND	D	ND	D
Republic of Moldova	NN	D	D	NN	D	NN	ND
Romania	D	ND	ND	D	D	ND	D
Russian Federation	D	D	ND	D	D	NN	D
Serbia	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

<i>State Party</i>	<i>A1</i>	<i>A2</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>
Seychelles	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Singapore	ND	D	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN
Slovakia	ND	ND	ND	D	NN	ND	ND
Slovenia	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	ND	ND
South Africa	D	D	ND	ND	D	NN	ND
Spain	D	D	D	ND	D	ND	ND
Sweden	D	D	ND	ND	D	NN	NN
Switzerland	NN	NN	D	D	D	NN	D
Thailand	NN	ND	NN	NN	D	NN	D
Turkey	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	NN	NN
Ukraine	D	ND	D	D	D	ND	D
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
United States of America	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
Uzbekistan	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
