

**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**

29 September 2016

Original: English

Geneva, 7-25 November 2016

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

**Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions
of the Seventh Review Conference and the question
of future review of the Convention**

Status of universalization of the Convention

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

Amendments

1. Paragraph 3 *should read*

3. Since the Seventh Review Conference, ten States have joined the Convention, increasing the total number of States Parties from 165 to 175, (a full list of States Parties is contained in Annex I). A further eight States have signed but not ratified the Convention (Annex II contains a list of Signatory States) and 13 States have neither signed nor ratified the Convention (contained in Annex III). This document describes the progress made since the Seventh Review Conference and provides information made available to the ISU on the status of ratification or accession in each of the remaining 21 States yet to join the Convention.

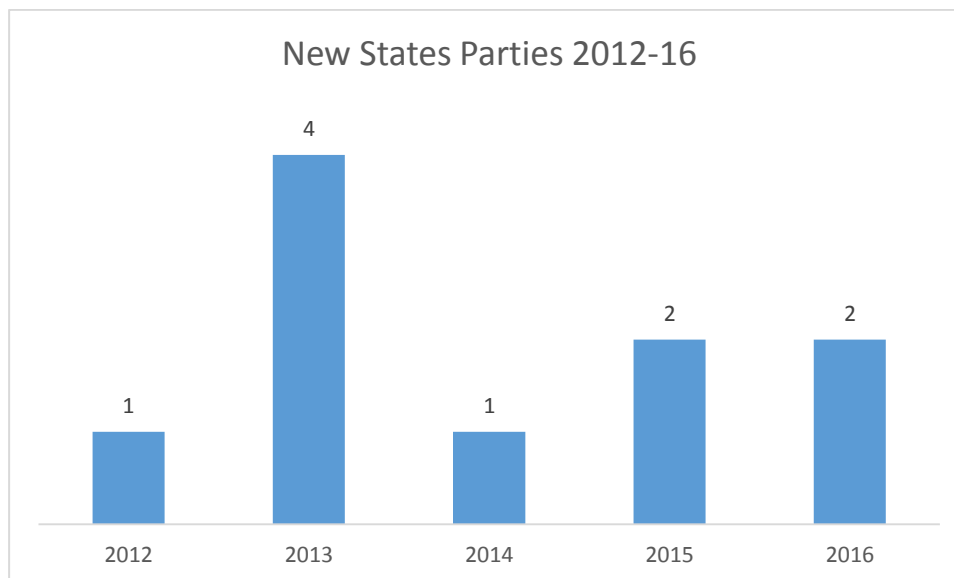
GE.16-16821(E)



* 1 6 1 6 8 2 1 *

Please recycle





2. Paragraph 4 *should read*

4. With 12 States yet to join the Convention (Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania), Africa is the region with the highest number of States not yet party to the Convention. It has therefore been a priority region for activities by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties, as it has and continues to be for the ISU.

3. Paragraph 5 *should read*

5. In 2015, the ISU strengthened its cooperation with the African Union (AU). On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention in March 2015, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, called on AU Member States "that have not yet done so to ratify and accede to the Convention without further delay". Furthermore, from 29 to 30 October 2015, the Defense and Security Division of the AU Commission and the ISU co-organized a meeting on "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa". The meeting was attended by representatives from 21 African States, including seven that are not yet party to the Convention. Moreover, at the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Addis Ababa from 6 to 7 April 2016, the ISU gave a presentation on the benefits of joining the Convention and practical measures for enhancing national implementation and conducted a number of bilateral meetings with representatives from African states that have not joined the Convention. Finally, from 13 to 14 September 2016, a European Union supported regional workshop took place at AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Representatives from one Signatory State (Somalia) and one State not party (Guinea) participated in the workshop and the President-Designate provided an overview of the universalization of the Convention in Africa.

4. Paragraph 6 *should read*

6. On 26 July 2016, Angola deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention in Washington, DC, thus becoming the 175th State Party to the Convention.

5. Paragraph 12 *should read*

12. In March 2012, the United States Embassy delivered documents prepared by VERTIC to senior government officials in Djibouti. The United States of America also reported having demarched Djibouti in 2013. Senior officials from Djibouti have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 20 June 2016, the President-Designate had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Houmed-Gaba Maki Houmed-Gaba, Counsellor, to promote the Convention and to encourage Djibouti's accession. Mr. Houmed-Gaba confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. Djibouti participated in a workshop in Nairobi in September 2015 for Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States on implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and other international instruments. ISU staff also engaged with a representative from Djibouti in Addis Ababa in April 2016 on the margins of the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa and discussed a number of practical measures with respect to the enhanced implementation of the Convention in Djibouti.

6. Paragraph 13 *should read*

13. Egypt has signed but not ratified the Convention. At an informal briefing in New York on 24 October 2013, 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 Convention in that process. Senior officials have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 22 June 2016, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Amr Ramadan, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Egypt's ratification. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. He reemphasized that ratification by Egypt is linked to other political considerations. Egypt participated in the workshop on "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa" co-organized by the African Union and the ISU in October 2015.

7. Paragraph 15 *should read*

15. Senior officials from Guinea have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 25 June 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Aly Diané, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Guinea to join it. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. The General Inspector of Health of Guinea attended the 2015 Meeting of Experts and discussed technical, legal and financial aspects of accession. The official informed the ISU he had been assigned directly by the Head of State of Guinea to participate in the Meeting of Experts, establish contact with the Depositary Governments and the ISU and report his conclusions and recommendations on the Convention. He believed that joining the Convention was important in light of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and would recommend that the Head of State take action without further delay. A representative of Guinea participated in the European Union support regional workshop on the Convention in Addis Ababa from 13 to 14 September 2016.

8. Paragraph 20 *should read*

20. Somalia has signed but not ratified the Convention. Senior officials from Somalia have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties. Somalia participated in the Workshop for Intergovernmental Authority on Development States on enhancing implementation of resolution 1540 and other non- proliferation instruments, in which the ISU made several presentations on the Convention and the benefits of joining. Somalia also participated in April 2016 in the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa in which the ISU informed about practical steps and benefits of joining the Convention. On 23 June 2016, the President-Designate has a bilateral meeting with Ms. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Somalia to ratify. Somalia subsequently attended the Preparatory Committee in August 2016.

9. Paragraph 22 *should read*

22. The United Republic of Tanzania has signed but not ratified the Convention. Senior officials from the United Republic of Tanzania have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties. On 22 June 2016, the President-Designate had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage the United Republic of Tanzania to ratify it. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. In addition, a representative of the United Republic of Tanzania participated in the workshop on "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa" co-organized by the African Union and the ISU in October 2015. On 3 April 2016, remarks by the President-Designate were distributed at a regional roundtable organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action in Dar-es-Salaam.¹ In his remarks, the President-Designate encouraged the United Republic of Tanzania and neighbouring States to join the Convention.

10. Paragraph 24 *should read*

24. Senior officials from Israel have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 22 June 2016, the President-Designate had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Eviatar Manor, in order to promote the Convention and seek further information. The Permanent Representative stated that joining the Convention was linked to other regional security considerations.

11. Paragraph 30 *should read*

30. Nepal has signed but not ratified the Convention. Senior officials from Nepal have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties in Geneva. Nepal received an assistance programme under the European Union funded Action in support of the Convention and assistance activities were carried out in Kathmandu from January to August 2014. A

¹ See

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/2022D74F95BC3D11C1257F8E0046EC60/\\$file/Statement+Chairman+Regional+Workshop+Dar+es+Salaam+2-3+April.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/2022D74F95BC3D11C1257F8E0046EC60/$file/Statement+Chairman+Regional+Workshop+Dar+es+Salaam+2-3+April.pdf)

time line for ratification by the end of 2015 was agreed as part of the action plan. However, the severe earthquake in April 2015, and the political transition in Nepal have slowed down the process. In early 2016, the Cabinet of Nepal referred the Convention to the Constituent Assembly. On 27 February 2016, remarks by the President-Designate encouraging Nepal to ratify the Convention were distributed at a roundtable in Kathmandu organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action.² On 28 April 2016, the President-Designate met with Mr. Deepak Dhital, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations in Geneva who reported that Nepal is close to joining the Convention, and that the process should be completed within the coming months. A representative from Nepal attended the European Union supported regional workshop on the Convention in New Delhi from 29 to 30 August 2016.

92. Paragraph 37 *should read*

37. Haiti has signed but not ratified the Convention. On 22 June 2016, the President-Designate had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Pierre André Dunbar, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Haiti to ratify the Convention. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. Haiti subsequently attended the Preparatory Committee in August 2016.

13. Paragraph 49 *should read*

49. So far during 2016, the President-Designate has had bilateral meetings in Geneva with the Permanent Representatives of Angola, Djibouti, Egypt, Israel, Nepal, Somalia and Tanzania

14. Annexes I, II and III *should read* as below

² See

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/2F9E0413F7D6C697C1257F6800346B89/\\$file/Statement+Amb+Molnar+Round+Table+Meeting+Katmandu+270216+FINAL.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/2F9E0413F7D6C697C1257F6800346B89/$file/Statement+Amb+Molnar+Round+Table+Meeting+Katmandu+270216+FINAL.pdf)

Annex I

[English only]

List of States Parties to the Convention (As at 27 September 2016)

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Andorra
5. Angola
6. Antigua and Barbuda
7. Argentina
8. Armenia
9. Australia
10. Austria
11. Azerbaijan
12. Bahamas
13. Bahrain
14. Bangladesh
15. Barbados
16. Belarus
17. Belgium
18. Belize
19. Benin
20. Bhutan
21. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
22. Bosnia-Herzegovina
23. Botswana
24. Brazil
25. Brunei Darussalam
26. Bulgaria
27. Burkina Faso
28. Burundi
29. Cambodia
30. Cameroon

31. Canada
32. Cape Verde
33. Chile
34. China
35. Colombia
36. Congo
37. Cook Islands
38. Costa Rica
39. Côte d'Ivoire
40. Croatia
41. Cuba
42. Cyprus
43. Czech Republic
44. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
45. Democratic Republic of the Congo
46. Denmark
47. Dominica
48. Dominican Republic
49. Ecuador
50. El Salvador
51. Equatorial Guinea
52. Estonia
53. Ethiopia
54. Fiji
55. Finland
56. France
57. Gabon
58. Gambia
59. Georgia
60. Germany
61. Ghana
62. Greece
63. Grenada
64. Guatemala
65. Guinea-Bissau
66. Guyana

67. Holy See
68. Honduras
69. Hungary
70. Iceland
71. India
72. Indonesia
73. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
74. Iraq
75. Ireland
76. Italy
77. Jamaica
78. Japan
79. Jordan
80. Kazakhstan
81. Kenya
82. Kuwait
83. Kyrgyzstan
84. Lao People's Democratic Republic
85. Latvia
86. Lebanon
87. Lesotho
88. Libya
89. Liechtenstein
90. Lithuania
91. Luxembourg
92. Madagascar
93. Malawi
94. Malaysia
95. Maldives
96. Mali
97. Malta
98. Marshall Islands
99. Mauritania
100. Mauritius
101. Mexico
102. Monaco

103. Mongolia
104. Montenegro
105. Morocco
106. Mozambique
107. Myanmar
108. Nauru
109. Netherlands
110. New Zealand
111. Nicaragua
112. Niger
113. Nigeria
114. Norway
115. Oman
116. Pakistan
117. Palau
118. Panama
119. Papua New Guinea
120. Paraguay
121. Peru
122. Philippines
123. Poland
124. Portugal
125. Qatar
126. Republic of Korea
127. Republic of Moldova
128. Romania
129. Russian Federation
130. Rwanda
131. Saint Kitts and Nevis
132. Saint Lucia
133. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
134. San Marino
135. Sao Tome and Principe
136. Saudi Arabia
137. Senegal
138. Serbia

139. Seychelles
140. Sierra Leone
141. Singapore
142. Slovakia
143. Slovenia
144. Solomon Islands
145. South Africa
146. Spain
147. Sri Lanka
148. Sudan
149. Suriname
150. Swaziland
151. Sweden
152. Switzerland
153. Tajikistan
154. Thailand
155. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
156. Timor Leste
157. Togo
158. Tonga
159. Trinidad and Tobago
160. Tunisia
161. Turkey
162. Turkmenistan
163. Uganda
164. Ukraine
165. United Arab Emirates
166. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
167. United States of America
168. Uruguay
169. Uzbekistan
170. Vanuatu
171. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
172. Viet Nam
173. Yemen

- 174. Zambia
- 175. Zimbabwe

Annex II

[English Only]

List of Signatory States to the Convention (As at 27 September 2016)

1. Central African Republic
2. Egypt
3. Haiti
4. Liberia
5. Nepal
6. Somalia
7. Syrian Arab Republic
8. United Republic of Tanzania

Annex III

[English Only]

List of States not party to the Convention (As at 27 September 2016)

1. Chad
 2. Comoros
 3. Djibouti
 4. Eritrea
 5. Guinea
 6. Israel
 7. Kiribati
 8. Micronesia
 9. Namibia
 10. Niue
 11. Samoa
 12. South Sudan
 13. Tuvalu
-