

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their
Destruction**

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Annual report of the Implementation Support Unit

2015 Report of the Implementation Support Unit

Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit

Summary

This report describes the activities of the Implementation Support Unit in 2015 to implement the mandate given to it by the Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences to support States Parties in the administration and comprehensive implementation of the Convention, to promote universalization of the Convention, to facilitate the exchange of Confidence-Building Measures, to establish and administer the assistance database, and to administer the sponsorship programme. The Seventh Review Conference decided that the Unit "will submit a concise annual written report to all States Parties on its activities to implement its mandate" (BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part III, paragraph 36).

I. Introduction

1. In 2015, the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) operated in accordance with the decisions and recommendations of the Seventh Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VII/7, part III), which renewed for the period from 2012 to 2016 the mandate of the Unit originally decided by the Sixth Review Conference. The renewed mandate includes, mutatis mutandis, all the tasks of the original mandate, and adds the specific tasks of establishing and administering the database for assistance requests and offers and of administering the sponsorship programme, as well as the general requirement to support, as appropriate, the implementation by the States Parties of the decisions and recommendations of the Seventh Review Conference.

2. The ISU is funded by the States Parties to the Convention as part of the costs for the 2012–2015 intersessional programme, which the Seventh Review Conference decided would be "shared by all States Parties to the Convention, based on the United Nations scale of assessment pro-rated to take into account differences in membership between the



Convention and the United Nations". The budget for the ISU in 2015 can be found in the cost estimates approved by the Seventh Review Conference, BWC/CONF.VII/4/Rev.1. The ISU is located in the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, which supports the ISU through a range of services including financial, logistical, administrative and personnel management. The Branch also facilitates the ISU's compliance with United Nations rules and regulations so as to enhance its effective functioning. The Branch is instrumental in coordinating and liaising with UNOG relevant services that support the organization of BWC meetings and conferences.

3. During 2015, the ISU received voluntary funding from Australia, Finland and the Netherlands in support of the BWC sponsorship programme (see section VII for details).

4. The ISU comprises three fixed-term staff positions, although it has operated with only two staff members for most of 2015. The changes to ISU staffing in the course of 2015 are listed below:

(a) Ms. Ngoc Phuong van der Blij, served as Political Affairs Officer on temporary assignment until being recruited as Political Affairs Officer; and

(b) Mr. Hermann Lampalzer, has been recruited as Political Affairs Officer.

5. In 2015, the ISU was assisted by several interns: from March to September by Mr. Swapnaj Dutta; from July to September by Ms. Juliette Devillard; and from September to March 2016, by Ms. Roberta Daveri.

6. This report contains sections devoted to each of the main elements of the ISU mandate, as well as three annexes (in English only):

Annex I: Meetings and events attended by the Implementation Support Unit;

Annex II: National Points of Contact; and

Annex III: Participation in the Confidence-Building Measures.

II. Administrative support for the Convention

7. The ISU forms the substantive Secretariat for the 2015 meetings of the intersessional programme, servicing the Meeting of Experts and Meeting of States Parties and supporting the activities of the Chairman and Vice-chairs. The Unit continued to undertake a broad range of administrative functions as described in past reports.

8. The ISU continued to develop the BWC website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc>) to increase its utility not only for States Parties, but also for outreach, awareness-raising and communication to a global audience. In 2015, the ISU continued to restructure and add material to the website, including interactive maps. Additions focused on the sections dealing with universalization, while a whole new section was created to cover the 40th anniversary of the BWC. In addition, more prominence was given to the sections on the cooperation and assistance database and the sponsorship programme. The website was also restructured in order to bring it into line with the various agenda items of the intersessional programme. The ISU has also made increased use of social media (particularly Facebook and Twitter) in order to raise awareness about the BWC.

9. The Unit maintained and further developed the restricted area for States Parties of the BWC website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/restricted>). The contents of this section of the website have been described in past reports.

10. On 30 March 2015, the ISU in cooperation with the Chairman and the Depositary Governments organized an event to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the BWC. The event took place in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations.

11. The ISU maintained regular contact with many scientific, professional and academic institutions as well as industry and non-governmental organisations. These contacts have provided insight and information that assisted the ISU in supporting the efforts of States Parties, including in the preparation of background information documents.

12. The ISU maintained regular contact with a wide range of international organizations relevant to the Convention, including all those detailed in past reports. The ISU, in activities fully consistent with its mandate, remains an active participant in regular processes, outreach and implementation efforts undertaken by these organizations.

13. The ISU maintained contact with the regional organizations detailed in past reports. The Unit has also begun to work more closely with the African Union Commission (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

III. Implementation of the Convention

14. The ISU continued to collect details of national points of contact for the Convention (see annex II). As of 30 October 2015, 101 States Parties had nominated a national point of contact as requested by the Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences. This represents an increase of 11 compared to the figure for 2014. Two signatory States, three States not party and one regional organization have also provided points of contact. Contact information for these national points of contact is provided in the restricted area of the BWC website.

15. Participation by the ISU in workshops and seminars plays a crucial role in raising awareness of the Convention and its implementation, both for national governments and other relevant actors such as international and regional organizations, the scientific community, professional associations, academia and the private sector. The ISU accepted select invitations to participate in a range of meetings and events throughout the year. Additionally, the ISU co-hosted or otherwise supported the planning and organisation of several meetings and events directly related to improving implementation of the Convention, including the final regional workshop under the EU funded Action in support of the BWC. The ISU undertook 21 missions between January and October 2015. Due to the ISU staffing situation described above, many invitations to participate in meetings or other events had to be declined.

IV. Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs)

16. In accordance with the decisions of the Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences, the ISU supports the exchange of confidence-building measures (CBM). The ISU maintains electronic versions of the CBM forms on the BWC website in all official languages. Annex III lists the 2015 submissions (covering the 2014 calendar year) and includes a breakdown by each CBM form.

17. All the 2015 CBM returns are available to States Parties in the restricted area of the website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/restricted>). Twenty-nine States Parties, six more than in 2014, have requested that their CBM submissions are also made available in the public area of the website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms>).

18. In accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference, on 15 January 2015, the Chief of the Implementation Support Unit, wrote to the permanent missions and the national points of contact of the States Parties informing them of the deadline (15 April

2015) for the annual CBM submission. In accordance with paragraph 45 of the 2013 Report of the Meeting of States Parties (BWC/MSP/2013/5), the Chairman of the 2015 Meeting of States Parties also included CBM reminders in his correspondence with States Parties.

19. As of 30 October 2015:

- (a) 70 States Parties (40.5 per cent of States Parties) had submitted a CBM covering the calendar year 2014;
- (b) Of these, 42 submitted their CBM on or before the deadline of 15 April 2015;
- (c) Six States Parties which submitted a CBM in 2014 had not yet done so in 2015; and
- (d) Six other States Parties which did not submit a CBM in 2014 had done so in 2015.

20. A total of 55 States Parties have never submitted a CBM.

V. Promotion of universalization

21. The ISU supported the Chairman and Vice-chairs in their activities to promote universalization, preparing correspondence and briefing material, and helping to organise outreach events. On 29 and 30 October 2015, the ISU cooperated with the African Union Commission to organize a workshop in Addis Ababa on the universalization of the BWC which was attended by several States not party and Signatory States.

22. Between April and October 2015, the ISU accompanied the Chairman to a number of bilateral meetings in Geneva with the following States not party and Signatory States: Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Haiti, Namibia, Nepal, South Sudan, Syria and Tanzania, where the ISU prepared a universalization kit to be distributed to each of these States. The ISU also provided information and advice to States Parties conducting their own outreach activities to promote universalization.

23. The ISU provided information and advice on the Convention to several signatories and States not party. The ISU also promoted universalization during the seminars and events in which it participated, at which representatives of States not parties were present (see annex I). As it became available, the Unit consolidated and published information on progress towards universality in the restricted area of the ISU website.

24. Further details on these activities, and the results to date, can be found in the Report of the Chairman on Universalization Activities (BWC/MSP/2015/4).

VI. Database for assistance requests and offers

25. The Seventh Review Conference decided to establish a database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties (BWC/CONF.VII/7, part III, paragraphs 17–20). The Conference mandated the ISU to establish and administer the database; to facilitate, on request, the exchange of information among States Parties relating to the database and any resulting cooperation and assistance activities; and to report to States Parties on the operation of the database detailing the offers made, requests sought and matches made during a calendar year.

26. The ISU has continued to maintain the database. The offers of assistance are available on the public area of the BWC website, while the requests for assistance are available to States Parties in the restricted area of the website.

27. As of 30 October 2015, the database contains:

(a) 29 offers for assistance, from five States Parties and one group of States Parties; and

(b) Four requests for assistance, from four States Parties; and one update of a request of assistance. Since the last report in November 2014, two new entries have been recorded by the ISU.

28. The ISU has been informed that one new offer for assistance will be soon submitted by a State Party. The database will be updated accordingly when the offer is submitted.

29. The ISU has included specific presentations on the database in its outreach activities and has made the database more prominent on the BWC website, which is accessible to States Parties on the restricted area of the ISU website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/restricted>). Additional resources are sought for further development.

30. The ISU has also maintained regular contact with relevant assistance providers in other settings. For example, the ISU continued to work closely with providers of assistance for related national legislation and enforcement measures such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) and the Committee established pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

VII. Sponsorship programme

31. The ISU administered the sponsorship programme established by the Seventh Review Conference to "support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme" (BWC/CONF.VII/7, part III, paragraph 21). In the course of his communications with States Parties, the Chairman requested voluntary contributions for the sponsorship programme.

32. As of 30 October 2015, voluntary contributions to the sponsorship programme have been received from three State Parties (Australia, Finland and the Netherlands). In addition, other States Parties have supported the sponsorship programme through bilateral arrangements.

33. Applications for sponsorship to participate in the 2015 Meeting of Experts were received from 12 States Parties (Armenia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cuba, Ghana, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Philippines and Sudan). In accordance with the decision of the Seventh Review Conference, the ISU allocated the available sponsorship resources in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-chairs of the Meeting of States Parties, giving priority to those States Parties which had previously not participated in the meetings, or had been unable to regularly send experts from capital, and giving consideration to participation of States not party in order to promote universalization of the Convention.

34. Five States Parties (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cuba, Mongolia and the Philippines) were sponsored to participate in the Meeting of Experts through the BWC sponsorship programme or through bilateral arrangements in support of the sponsorship programme.

35. As of 30 October 2015, sponsorship arrangements for the Meeting of States Parties had yet to be finalized. Due to the abovementioned efforts to more prominently promote the sponsorship programme however, applications for sponsorship to attend the Meeting of States Parties increased significantly to 25 and the ISU continued to actively seek additional voluntary contributions.

VIII. Conclusions and future work

36. As described in previous reports, the decision of the Seventh Review Conference to mandate additional tasks to the ISU without increasing its resources continued to pose a challenge. The concerns raised in the 2011 ISU report to the Seventh Review Conference about the capacity of the ISU to respond to the requests of States Parties and the geographic distribution of ISU activity remain unresolved. The recruitment of the two Political Affairs Officers at the end of 2015 will re-establish the ISU at its full strength for the first time in more than one year.

37. In 2016, the ISU will turn its attention to supporting the preparations for, and conduct of, the Eighth Review Conference, including the compilation of any requested background information papers, while at the same time continuing the activities described above, to the extent that resources allow.

Annex I

[English only]

Meetings and events attended by the Implementation Support Unit

Representatives of the Implementation Support Unit participated, or are scheduled to participate, in the following 21 meetings and events in 2015:

1. On 27-28 January, in Nairobi (Kenya), a member of the ISU participated in the regional workshop on BWC implementation for East Africa and made an opening statement, presentations on several BWC topics and made the closing remarks. (Daniel Feakes)
2. On 19-20 February at the OPCW in The Hague (Netherlands), a member of the ISU participated in the CTITF Workshop on Effective Inter-Agency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks and gave a presentation on Article VII of the BWC. (Daniel Feakes)
3. On 22-23 February, in Rome (Italy), a member of the ISU participated in a seminar on “New Approaches to Security, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the Middle-East”. (Daniel Feakes)
4. On 22-23 April in Munich (Germany), a member of the ISU participated in the meeting of the Biosecurity Sub-Working Group of the Global Partnership. (Daniel Feakes)
5. On 25 June, in Vienna (Austria), a member of the ISU participated in a national workshop on the BWC and delivered a presentation on the Convention. (Daniel Feakes)
6. On 29 June, in Paris (France), during the OIE Global Biothreat Reduction Conference a member of the ISU delivered a presentation on the BWC. (Daniel Feakes)
7. On 3 August, in Geneva (Switzerland), the ISU and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy jointly organized a workshop on the implementation of the BWC. (Daniel Feakes and Ngoc Phuong van der Blij)
8. On 7 August, in Geneva (Switzerland), the ISU co-hosted with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) an event on “Implications and Lessons Learned from the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak for the Biological Weapons Convention.”
9. On 26 August, a member of the ISU participated via video conference in the Sixth Annual Summer Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of WMD at the TMC Asser Institute in The Hague (the Netherlands). (Daniel Feakes)
10. On 28 August, in Geneva (Switzerland) during the 2015 Disarmament Fellowship Programme organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, a member of the ISU gave a presentation on the Convention. (Daniel Feakes)
11. On 14-15 September, in Nairobi (Kenya), a member of the ISU participated in the “Workshop for Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) States on Enhancing Implementation of Resolution 1540 and other Non-Proliferation Instruments” and delivered four presentations on the Convention. (Daniel Feakes)
12. On 23-25 September, at Wilton Park (United Kingdom), a member of the ISU participated in a conference on “Compliance with the BTWC: Strategies towards the 2016 Review Conference”. (Daniel Feakes)

13. On 24-25 September, in Vienna (Austria) a member of the ISU participated in the Preparatory Meeting of the African Union Assistance Conference on UNSCR 1540 and made a presentation on the BWC, the ISU mandate and BWC assistance tools. (Ngoc Phuong van der Blij)
14. On 30 September - 1 October, in Berlin (Germany) a member of the ISU participated in the meeting of the Biosecurity Sub-Working Group of the Global Partnership. (Daniel Feakes)
15. On 7 October, in New York (United States of America), a member of the ISU made a presentation at a joint UNICRI/Georgia side event on CBRN centres of excellence national action plans during the United Nations General Assembly. (Daniel Feakes)
16. On 14-16 October, at Wilton Park (United Kingdom), a member of the ISU participated in a conference on "The Australia Group: Challenges and future directions" and gave a presentation on the BWC. (Daniel Feakes)
17. On 20 October, in Geneva (Switzerland), the ISU and Hotzone Solutions organized a joint training course for diplomats of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia entitled "Specialised Course on Biological Arms Control, Non-proliferation and Disarmament Agreements" and a member of the ISU made a presentation on the BWC, the ISU mandate and BWC assistance tools. (Ngoc Phuong van der Blij)
18. On 29-30 October, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) a member of the ISU participated in the African Union workshop on "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa" and delivered four presentations on different aspects of the BWC. (Daniel Feakes)
19. On 4-6 November, Milan (Italy) at the "Sixth Annual International Symposium on Biosecurity and Biosafety: Future Trends and Solutions", a member of the ISU participated and made a presentation entitled "BWC, Women and Security". (Ngoc Phuong van der Blij)
20. On 11-12 November, in Brussels (Belgium), a member of the ISU participated in the EU Non-Proliferation Conference and chaired a session on "The BWC: Issues for the 2016 Review Conference". (Daniel Feakes)
21. On 30 November - 1 December, in San Salvador (El Salvador), a member of the ISU will participate in a "Global Forum on Implementation of the BWC" organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action. (Daniel Feakes)

Annex II

[English only]

National Points of Contact

The following States have nominated a national point of contact to the ISU by 30 October 2015.

Full contact details, including telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, are available to States Parties in the restricted area of the ISU website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/restricted>).

I. States Parties

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia

Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Ecuador
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia

Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Turkey
Uganda
United Kingdom
United States of America

Uruguay

Uzbekistan

Venezuela

Yemen

Zambia

II. Signatories

Liberia

United Republic of Tanzania

III. States not party

Guinea

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Namibia

IV. Regional organizations

European Union

Annex III

[English only]

Report on participation in the Confidence-Building Measures

Provisional 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	D	ND	D	D	D	ND	ND
Argentina	D	ND	D	D	NN	ND	D
Armenia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Australia	NN	NN	D	D	NN	NN	NN
Austria	NN	NN	ND	NN	NN	NN	ND
Azerbaijan	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	ND	ND
Belarus	D	D	D	NN	D	D	ND
Belgium	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
Bhutan	ND	ND	ND	ND	NN	ND	ND
Botswana	D	D	ND	D	D	NN	D
Brazil	D	ND	D	ND	D	D	NN
Bulgaria	NN	D	ND	ND	NN	NN	NN
Canada	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
Chile	NN	NN	ND	ND	ND	ND	NN
China	D	D	ND	D	D	NN	D
Colombia	NN	ND	NN	ND	D	ND	NN
Croatia	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Cuba	D	D	ND	D	ND	D	D
Cyprus	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Czech Republic	NN	NN	ND	D	D	NN	NN
Denmark	ND	D	ND	ND	NN	NN	NN
Ecuador	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	ND	ND
Estonia	ND	ND	NN	ND	NN	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>
Finland	D	D	ND	D	D	ND	ND
France	D	D	D	D	D	-	D
Georgia	ND	D	ND	D	NN	D	D
Germany	D	D	D	D	NN	NN	D
Greece	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN
Hungary	NN	NN	D	D	D	NN	D
India	D	D	NN	NN	D	D	NN
Indonesia	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Iraq	NN	ND	D	ND	NN	ND	NN
Ireland	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Italy	D	D	D	NN	NN	D	D
Japan	NN	0	ND	0	0	NN	0
Jordan	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Kazakhstan	NN	D	ND	NN	D	NN	NN
Kenya	ND	ND	D	ND	D	ND	D
Kyrgyzstan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Latvia	D	NN	ND	ND	NN	NN	ND
Liechtenstein	NN	NN	D	NN	NN	NN	NN
Lithuania	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	ND	NN
Luxembourg	NN	ND	NN	NN	NN	ND	ND
Malaysia	NN	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Mauritius	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	D	ND
Mexico	D	ND	D	D	D	ND	D
Morocco	D	D	D	-	D	D	D
Netherlands	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
New Zealand	D	ND	NN	ND	NN	NN	ND
Norway	NN	D	ND	NN	NN	NN	D
Poland	D	D	ND	D	NN	ND	NN
Portugal	NN	ND	ND	ND	NN	NN	NN
Qatar	ND	ND	D	ND	ND	ND	ND
Republic of Korea	D	D	ND	ND	NN	ND	NN
Republic of	NN	NN	D	NN	D	NN	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>
Moldova							
Romania	D	ND	ND	D	D	ND	D
Russian Federation	D	D	ND	-	D	NN	D
Serbia	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Singapore	ND	D	D	D	NN	NN	NN
Slovakia	ND	ND	ND	ND	D	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	D	NN
Switzerland	NN	NN	D	NN	D	NN	D
Turkey	NN	ND	ND	ND	D	D	NN
Ukraine	NN	ND	D	D	D	ND	D
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	D	D	D	NN	D	NN	D
United States of America	D	D	D	D	D	NN	D
Uzbekistan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
