
**Seventh 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**

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

**Follow-up to the recommendations and decisions
of the Sixth 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**

Summary

The Preparatory Committee decided to request the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to prepare a background information document on the status of universalization of the Convention (see BWC/CONF.VII/PC/2, paragraph 24). The ISU has duly compiled this document which outlines the results to date of the activities to promote universalization of the Convention undertaken by the President-designate of the Review Conference and the ISU in 2011. It also includes information from States Parties and other organizations, where that information has been provided to the President-designate or the ISU. The Convention currently has 164 States Parties (listed in the Annex), with 13 signatories and 19 states having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 32 states are not party to the Convention.

I. Overview

1. Mozambique acceded to the Convention on 29 March 2011, bringing the total number of States Parties to 164 (see Annex); 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. Two states, Malawi and Marshall Islands, have been reported to have completed or almost completed all internal steps for ratification. Three states have tried to join the Convention but have failed to do so for technical reasons: Cameroon sent to the ISU in July 2011 a copy of its instrument of accession dated 29 October 2009, but the original instrument has not yet been deposited; Guinea tried to join the Convention via a *note verbale* in July 2011, which cannot be accepted by the Depositaries; and Burundi deposited an incomplete ratification instrument in 2000 (the full instrument has recently been located and is expected to be deposited

shortly). The status of South Sudan, which became an independent state in 2011, is not yet clear; Sudan is a State Party, but South Sudan has not yet communicated its intention to succeed to the Convention. It is therefore counted in this document as a state which has neither signed nor ratified.

2. Since the 2010 Meeting of States Parties, the following universalization activities have been undertaken by the President-designate of the Seventh Review Conference and the Implementation Support Unit:

(a) On 8 February 2011, the ISU took part in the Geneva Forum orientation for diplomats in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants included representatives from states not party to the Convention.

(b) In April 2011, the President-designate, as part of his efforts to promote the universalization of the Convention, facilitated a letter from Uri Rosenthal, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, to the foreign ministers of states not party. The letter not only encouraged these states to join the treaty but also highlighted the availability of assistance to facilitate the process.

(c) On 4 May 2011, the President-designate, in partnership with the permanent representatives of the Depositaries, held a universalization meeting in Geneva. Representatives of Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Haiti, Israel, Myanmar, and Nepal participated in the meeting. The meeting aimed to provide states not party with information on the Convention, and in particular on the Seventh Review Conference, as well beginning a dialogue on steps those governments may be interested in taking towards joining the BWC.

(d) The President-designate throughout the year held bilateral meetings with several states not party that are represented in Geneva (including, Burundi, Cameroon, Haiti, Myanmar, and Nepal) to raise awareness of the Convention and encourage these states to join.

(e) From 24–27 January 2011, the ISU participated in the *Regional Biosecurity and the Role of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention* workshop held at the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS) in Jordan, where Egypt (a signatory) participated.

(d) Since May 2011 the ISU has maintained regular contact with the Permanent Mission of Burundi in Geneva to coordinate and accelerate the ratification process.

(e) The ISU briefed participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme on 30 August 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants included representatives from states not party to the Convention, including Egypt and the United Republic of Tanzania.

(f) Throughout the year, the ISU remained in regular contact with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in order to coordinate mutual universalization efforts.

(g) On 11 October 2011, on the margins of the First Committee in New York, the President-designate will hold a universalization meeting with states not party, including those which are represented in New York but not in Geneva. The meeting will be similar to the meeting held in Geneva on 4 May 2011 (see above).

(h) From 27 June to 1 July 2011, the ISU organised in collaboration with the governments of Australia, Philippines and the United States of America, the European Union Joint Action in support of the Biological Weapons Convention (EUJA), and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), a *BWC Conference Week* in Manila, Philippines. Myanmar (a signatory) was sponsored to participate in the event.

(i) The President-designate and the ISU will participate in the *Regional Workshop on Implementation of the BWC* in Peru, Lima, scheduled to be held from 9–11 November 2011, jointly organized by the European Union Joint Action in support of the Biological Weapons Convention and the government of Peru. Two states not party to the Convention—Guyana and Haiti—are expected participated in the workshop. The workshop will be used as an opportunity to increase the awareness of these states about the Convention and to discuss possible assistance and cooperation.

(j) Throughout the year, the ISU remained in regular contact with states not party that have expressed an interest in the Convention, sought assistance to join, or requested additional information.

3. Over the course of 2011, the President-designate and the ISU were pleased to learn of support, activities and demarches undertaken by Australia, Germany, Portugal, Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the EUJA, and VERTIC toward the goal of universalization.

4. Activities held throughout the year have generated additional information on progress towards universalization. This background paper includes data from the activities listed above, as well as from communications from States Parties, states not party, and interested organisations such as VERTIC and the BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP).

5. The following tables show states not party by geographical region and by progress towards ratification or accession:

Table 1

States not party by geographical region

<i>Geographical region</i>	<i>States not party to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Asia and Pacific	Israel, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar*, 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, Namibia, Somalia*, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania*	18
Europe	Andorra	1

* Signatory (not ratified)

Table 2

States not party by progress towards accession or ratification

<i>Situation</i>	<i>States not party to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Burundi*, Cameroon, Comoros, Guinea, Malawi*, Marshall Islands, United Republic of Tanzania*	7
Accession or ratification process started	Andorra, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire*, Haiti*, Nepal*	5

Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Central African Republic*, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guyana*, Kiribati, Liberia*, Mauritania, Micronesia, Myanmar*, Namibia, Nauru, Somalia*, Samoa, Tuvalu	15
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	3
No information or feedback yet received	Niue, South Sudan	2

* Signatory (not ratified)

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

(a) Representatives from Myanmar during the BWC Conference in Manila requested assistance to organise a national awareness raising workshop. The ISU is currently in contact with the capital and the permanent mission in Geneva to explore the possibilities of arranging such an event.

(b) Cameroon's newly-nominated BWC national contact point requested the ISU's assistance in implementing the BWC. Once again, the ISU explained to the representative that Cameroon first needs to accede to the Convention.

(c) In contacts with the United States of America, Guyana requested assistance with preparing for ratification. Further details are being sought.

II. Signatories

Burundi

7. Burundi deposited an instrument in 2000 to join the BWC. However, the instrument had been rejected by a depositary State for technical reason (lack of counter-signature by the Head of State or Minister of Foreign Affairs.) In November 2010, Burundi requested assistance through the EU Joint Action to raise awareness of the country's decision-makers about the Convention and provide legal and administrative assistance to prepare again the ratification instruments. An awareness raising and legal assistance visit subsequently took place in March 2011, with experts from the EU and VERTIC. In October 2011, the Permanent Mission of Burundi informed the ISU that the original full instrument of ratification from 2000 had been located. Arrangements are currently being made to deposit the instrument.

Central African Republic

8. The Central African Republic requested assistance to ratify the Convention in April 2007. VERTIC provided a model instrument of ratification, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a survey of the Central African Republic's BWC-related legislation and offered legislative assistance for BWC ratification and the drafting of national implementing legislation to the Central African Republic's CWC National Authority in July 2011.

Côte d'Ivoire

9. During the course of 2009 and 2010, the Permanent Secretary of the Côte d'Ivoire national authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention has been coordinating efforts with

the ISU to promote Côte d'Ivoire's ratification. As a follow-up he has urged his permanent mission in Geneva to establish closer contact with the ISU. From June 2010, the ISU has been exchanging communication with the permanent mission in Geneva, meeting and discussing with the representative the various possibilities in supporting Côte d'Ivoire's accession. Côte d'Ivoire officials communicated to VERTIC in early 2011 that the Presidential election in November 2010 had delayed their government's consideration of BWC ratification and a national BWC workshop tentatively scheduled for early 2011, but this was still a priority issue and they would seek assistance in due course.

Egypt

10. In January 2011, Egypt participated in the *Regional Biosecurity and the Role of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention* workshop held at the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS) in Jordan; the representative expressed much interest in the BWC and committed to encourage his country to join the BWC. Egypt took part in the universalization meeting held in Geneva on 4 May 2011 and confirmed that it was committed to the objective of a world free of WMD, especially in the Middle-East. However, the Egyptian representative added that Egypt's ratification of the BWC was linked to other security issues. Egypt took part in August 2011 in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme briefing given by the ISU on 30 August 2010 in Geneva, and the ISU gave a briefing on the BWC to Egyptian diplomats in September 2011 in Geneva.

Guyana

11. The United States reported in 2011 having encouraged Guyana to ratify the Convention, and that Guyanese authorities had expressed interest in receiving assistance. The United States is seeking further details.

Haiti

12. Following several demarches and other contacts by Canada in 2009, Haiti's ratification was in progress. Unfortunately, due to the catastrophic earthquake in January 2010, the process has been delayed. However, Haiti informed the President-designate and the ISU during the universalization meeting in Geneva on 4 May 2011 and a bilateral meeting in June 2011 that the Haitian government was now ready to continue from where it had left off.

Liberia

13. On 17 October 2008, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Liberia met the BWC 2008 Chairman in New York and confirmed that Liberia had no objections to ratifying the Convention. She added that it was a matter of getting the necessary domestic priority. The Liberian Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority contacted the ISU that year to request assistance to participate in meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention to help raise the priority of ratifying the Convention. The ISU is coordinating efforts with the OPCW to further engage the Liberian CWC National Authority.

Malawi

14. Following a demarche by Germany in 2010, it appeared that Malawi had completed all internal procedures and was soon to deposit its instrument of ratification. However Germany demarched Malawi in 2011, and did not receive any further information.

Myanmar

15. Germany reported undertaking recent demarches to Myanmar, which stated its interest in joining both the BWC and CWC. On 4 May 2011, the President-designate and the ISU met with the representatives from Myanmar during the universalization meeting in Geneva, where Myanmar confirmed its commitments to the principles of the BWC and informed that the Myanmar government was currently reviewing 360 items of legislation, including for ratifying the BWC. However the process will be delayed due to the transitional government. During the BWC conference week in Manila from 27 June to 1 July 2011, Myanmar expressed its interest in organizing a national awareness workshop on the BWC. The ISU, EUJA and VERTIC have been keeping close contact with Myanmar and are awaiting further information from Myanmar concerning a potential national workshop.

Nepal

16. Nepal took part in the Universalization Meeting in May 2011 and met with the President-designate and the ISU in June 2011, where its representative confirmed that joining the BWC was a priority, and that the ratification of the BWC was in the pipeline. Nepal is planning to bring the BWC to its parliament once the current work on developing the new national constitution is complete.

Somalia

17. The Permanent Representative of Somalia met the BWC 2008 Chairman in Geneva in November 2008 and said that Somalia was sensitized to the Convention at a high level. However, no further information has been received since 2008.

Syrian Arab Republic

18. 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 in March 2009. Although the participants expressed interest in the aims and objectives of the Convention, no further movement seems likely at present.

United Republic of Tanzania

19. In February 2010, Tanzania participated in the *Workshop on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540* in Nairobi, Kenya. During its bilateral consultation with the ISU, Tanzania confirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had brought the accession dossier to the Cabinet, which will go to the Parliament. The representatives added that 2010 is election year and they were afraid the process might be slowed down for this reason. However, the representative from the Ministry of Defence and Chairperson of the WMD national committee, who is also in charge for Tanzania's ratification to the BWC, made the commitment to keep up the pace. A representative of Tanzania took part in August 2011 in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme briefing given by the ISU on 30 August 2010 in Geneva. In 2011, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom wrote to his Tanzanian counterpart to encourage Tanzania to join the Convention.

III. States neither signed nor ratified

Andorra

20. Following an initial contact with the United States and the EUJA in 2010, the government of Andorra contacted the ISU for advice on preparing an instrument of accession. VERTIC reported that the British Embassy conducted a demarche on BWC accession in March 2011 and provided a package of VERTIC materials comprising a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC, a survey of Andorra's BWC-related legislation and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer. The officials indicated that they hope Andorra can accede to the Convention following the April 2011 elections. The United Kingdom also reported having encouraged Andorra to join the Convention.

Angola

21. Following a demarche from Germany, it appears that the BWC and the CWC are priorities on the agenda of the new Minister of Foreign Affairs. The United Kingdom also reported having encouraged Angola to join the Convention.

Cameroon

22. From 2008 until 2011, the ISU has maintained close contact with Cameroonian officials (monthly emails, regular meetings in Geneva and various meetings and workshops all over the world). VERTIC maintained communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and reiterated its legislative assistance offer. Cameroonian officials reported in November 2009 that the President of Cameroon had signed an act of accession to the Convention. In May 2010, Cameroon informed the ISU that the President had signed the presidential ratification decree. In September 2010, the ISU was been contacted by the newly-nominated national contact point for the BWV, who requested assistance in implementing the Convention. In November 2010, Cameroon informed the ISU that the act of accession had been published in the "Journal Officiel de la République". In July 2011, the ISU received by e-mail from the national contact point a scanned copy of the accession instrument, dated 29 October 2009. Unfortunately the original instrument has not been deposited and apparently cannot be located by Cameroon's authorities. The United Kingdom and the United States, as depositaries, are currently seeking for further clarification and coordinating efforts with their respective embassies in Yaoundé. In 2011, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom sent a letter to his Cameroonian counterpart to encourage Cameroon to join the Convention.

Chad

23. The BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP) report *Building a Global Ban* indicated in 2009 that an official stated that the government of Chad 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. No further information has been reported since 2009.

Comoros

24. Information reported in October 2007 indicated that a draft instrument of ratification was awaiting signature by the President of Comoros. VERTIC provided a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a survey of Comoros' BWC-related legislation and offered legislative assistance in a communication addressed to the Comoros Ambassador to the United Nations Office at Geneva in May 2011.

Djibouti

25. Djibouti took part in the universalization meeting held on 4 May 2011 in Geneva, where it confirmed sharing the principles of the BWC.

Eritrea

26. Eritrea took part in the universalization meeting held on 4 May 2011 in Geneva, but provided no specific information on its circumstances or intentions.

Guinea

27. VERTIC provided a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a survey of Guinea's BWC-related legislation and offered legislative assistance in a communication addressed to Guinea's CWC National Authority in July 2011. The Netherlands reported that its Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received a *note verbale* from Guinea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 18 July 2011, in which Guinea expressed its intention to join the BWC through the above-mentioned document. However, the *note verbale* could not be accepted as an instrument of accession by the depositaries. The United Kingdom and the United States, as depositaries, are currently seeking further clarification and coordinating efforts with their respective embassies in Guinea in order to facilitate Guinea's accession to the BWC.

Israel

28. Israel took part in the universalization meeting held in Geneva on 4 May 2011, where it confirmed again that joining the Convention was linked to other regional security considerations.

Kiribati

29. In 2011, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom sent a letter to his Kiribati counterpart to encourage Kiribati to join the Convention.

Mauritania

30. In November 2008 in Geneva, the 2008 BWC Chairman met the Permanent Representative of Mauritania, who said that Mauritania is seriously considering joining the Convention. Mauritania, however, linked accession to issues of priority and capacity, and a request for assistance in drafting the instrument of accession was made. VERTIC is preparing a survey of Mauritania's BWC-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of ratification, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the BWC and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer will be sent in October 2011.

Marshall Islands

31. The United States reported having actively encouraged the Marshall Islands to join the BWC, and in October 2011 reported that the necessary accession legislation would be passed by the Marshall Islands parliament in January 2012. Deposit of the accession instrument is expected shortly thereafter.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

32. 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. No further information has been reported since 2009.

Namibia

33. Namibia reported in 2007 that it had started the accession process. However, no progress has been reported so far. Portugal reported to have encouraged Namibia in February 2011 to join the BWC. Following several universality demarches to Namibia made by Germany, it appears that Namibia's Foreign Affairs expressed in 2011 a more positive perspective on the BWC, but reference was made to responsibilities of other ministries in this regard. In 2011, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom sent a letter to his Namibian counterpart to encourage Namibia to join the Convention.

Nauru

34. 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 recognized the importance of joining the Convention and undertook to follow up with the appropriate authorities. No further information has been reported since 2009.

Niue

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

Samoa

36. 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. No further information has been reported since 2009.

South Sudan

37. Since becoming an independent state and joining the United Nations in 2011, South Sudan has not yet indicated its intentions with respect to succeeding or acceding to the Convention. Sudan, of which South Sudan was formerly a part, is a State Party to the Convention.

Tuvalu

38. In 2011, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom sent a letter to his Tuvaluan counterpart to encourage Tuvalu to join the Convention.

Annex

List of States Parties to the Convention

As at 10 October 2011

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

Holy See	Mozambique
Honduras	Netherlands
Hungary	New Zealand
Iceland	Nicaragua
India	Niger
Indonesia	Nigeria
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Norway
Iraq	Oman
Ireland	Palau
Italy	Pakistan
Jamaica	Panama
Japan	Papua New Guinea
Jordan	Paraguay
Kazakhstan	Peru
Kenya	Philippines
Kuwait	Poland
Kyrgyzstan	Portugal
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Qatar
Latvia	Republic of Moldova
Lebanon	Republic of Korea
Lesotho	Romania
Libya	Russian Federation
Liechtenstein	Rwanda
Lithuania	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Luxembourg	Saint Lucia
Madagascar	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Malaysia	San Marino
Maldives	Sao Tome and Principe
Mali	Saudi Arabia
Malta	Senegal
Mauritius	Serbia
Mexico	Seychelles
Monaco	Sierra Leone
Mongolia	Singapore
Montenegro	Slovakia
Morocco	Slovenia

Solomon Islands	Tunisia
South Africa	Turkey
Spain	Turkmenistan
Sri Lanka	Uganda
Sudan	Ukraine
Suriname	United Arab Emirates
Swaziland	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Sweden	United States of America
Switzerland	Uruguay
Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Thailand	Vanuatu
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Venezuela
Timor Leste	Viet Nam
Togo	Yemen
Tonga	Zambia
Trinidad and Tobago	Zimbabwe
