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# 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

25 September 2017

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Geneva, 4-8 December 2017  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda  
Progress with universalization of the Convention

## Report on universalization activities<sup>1</sup>

Submitted by the Chairperson

### *Summary*

The Seventh Review Conference decided to request the Chair of the Meeting of States Parties to prepare an annual report on universalization activities (BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part III, paragraph 29), and the Eighth Review Conference decided to continue this practice (BWC/CONF.VIII/4, Part III, paragraph 8). The Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties has duly compiled this document which outlines the results to date of the activities to promote universalization of the Convention undertaken by the Chairman, Vice-chairs and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in 2017. It also includes information from States Parties and different organizations, where that information has been provided to the Chairman or the ISU. The Convention currently has 179 States Parties (listed in the annex), with six signatories and 11 States having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 17 States are not party to the Convention.

## I. Introduction

1. Since the Eighth Review Conference, one State has joined the Convention. On 21 September 2017, Samoa became the 179<sup>th</sup> State Party (see Annex). A further six States have signed but not ratified the Convention and 11 States have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. This report outlines what is known about these 17 States.

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<sup>1</sup> This report was finalized on 22 September 2017. An addendum will be prepared in order to reflect any additional universalization activities that take place from 23 September until the start of the 2017 MSP.

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## II. Activities to promote universalization

2. The following universalization activities have been undertaken and reported to the Chairman or the ISU, or are planned to take place during 2017:

(a) From 27 to 28 July, a regional workshop on universalization, hosted by Fiji, took place in Nadi. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the ISU, with financial support from the European Union in the framework of EU Council Decision 2016/51/CFSP. With five States in the Pacific region then not party to the BWC (Kiribati, Micronesia, Niue, Samoa and Tuvalu), the main objective of the regional workshop was to raise awareness of the BWC and to promote the efforts of these states towards accession. The three Depositary Governments, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, also contributed to the workshop. Representatives from four States then not party to the Convention took part in the workshop: Kiribati, Niue, Samoa and Tuvalu. During the workshop, staff of UNODA and the ISU gave briefings on the provisions of the BWC, the rights and obligations of States Parties and the types of assistance available to States that join the Convention. Representatives from States Parties such as the host country Fiji, Australia, Nauru and Vanuatu shared their experiences with BWC implementation, while representatives of Kiribati, Niue, Samoa and Tuvalu spoke about their countries' efforts to join the BWC.

(b) The ISU participated via video link in two regional workshops on BWC implementation and universalization organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) under its Campaign for Universality and Implementation of the BWC. The first took place in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 27 to 28 March and the second took place in Santiago, Chile from 15 to 16 May. The Freetown workshop was attended by parliamentarians from the following Signatory States and States not party: Central African Republic, Chad, Namibia, Somalia and Tanzania. The Santiago workshop was attended by a parliamentarian from Haiti as a Signatory State. On both occasions, the ISU briefed participants on the BWC and encouraged them to promote ratification or accession of the Convention in their respective countries.

(c) On 25 August in Geneva, Switzerland, the ISU gave a presentation to participants in the 2017 United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme. Participants included officials from two States not party to the Convention - Namibia, and Israel; and one Signatory State - Haiti.

(d) During the abovementioned regional workshop in Fiji, the representative from Samoa briefed participants on its efforts towards accession. The representative informed participants that the internal process for accession had been completed and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade had been instructed to prepare the instrument of accession for submission to one or more of the Depositary States. The representative also highlighted the role of parliamentarians in the process, including the support that Samoa had received from PGA. The ISU received confirmation of Samoa's accession to the BWC from the United States of America on 21 September.

(e) In October, a letter from the Chairman will be sent to all Permanent Representatives of States not party and Signatory States to encourage them to join the Convention.

(f) Following the close cooperation between the Commission of the African Union and the ISU established in 2015, the two bodies have since jointly organized sensitization, consultation and capacity-building activities, including the workshop on universalization of the BWC in Africa, held in October 2015; and the regional workshop, held in September 2016, to prepare African States Parties for the Eighth Review

Conference. In continuation of these efforts, the AU Commission and the ISU will organize a training workshop from 17 to 18 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop aims to bring together nominated African National Contact Points and assistance providers with a view to improving national implementation of the BWC. Although meant for States Parties, the workshop will also include the participation of some States not party in the region.

(g) In October in New York, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Chairman is planning to hold a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of States not party and Signatory States.<sup>2</sup> During his trip to New York, the Chair will prioritize contacts with States that are reported to be close to joining the Convention;

(h) Throughout the year, UNODA and the ISU have pursued discussions with representatives from Haiti and Tanzania on potential universalization visits to both countries in the framework of EU Council Decision 2016/51/CFSP. Both States are assessed as being well advanced with ratification of the BWC. Discussions are also underway with the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) with a view to a workshop for those IGAD Member States which have not yet joined the BWC.

(i) The ISU remained in close and regular contact with the African Union, the European Union, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), the UNSC 1540 Committee, and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) to coordinate mutual universalization efforts; and

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

3. The ISU has also been coordinating with the Depositary Governments on various universalization related matters.

### III. Overview of current status

4. Activities conducted throughout the year have generated additional information on progress towards universalization. This report includes data from the activities listed above, as well as from communications from States Parties, States not party and Signatories, as well as interested organizations and entities.

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

**Table 1**

<i>Geographical region</i>	<i>States not party and Signatories* to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Asia and Pacific	Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Syrian Arab Republic*, Tuvalu	6
Latin America and Caribbean	Haiti*	1
Africa	Central African Republic*, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti,	10

<sup>2</sup> Details of the bilateral meetings will be provided in the addendum of the report.

<i>Geographical region</i>	<i>States not party and Signatories* to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
	Egypt*, Eritrea, Namibia, Somalia*, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania*	

**Table 2**

<i>Situation</i>	<i>States not party and Signatories* to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Haiti, Niue, United Republic of Tanzania*	3
Accession or ratification process started	Central African Republic*, Chad, Djibouti, Namibia	4
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Comoros, Eritrea, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Somalia*, South Sudan, Tuvalu	7
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	3

#### IV. Signatories

##### Central African Republic

6. On 24 August, PGA informed the ISU that a draft law authorizing the ratification of the BWC may be submitted to the National Assembly in early October.

##### Egypt

7. No further information has been reported during 2017.

##### Haiti

8. Throughout 2017, the ISU has been in close contact with Haitian officials in Port-au-Prince. The ratification bill has been submitted to parliament following approval by the Cabinet of Ministers but time has not yet been found for action to be taken on the bill. During the year, representatives of PGA have visited Haiti twice to promote ratification of the BWC. In February, a PGA delegation met with high level officials in Port-au-Prince, including officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and the Chief Justice. . On this occasion, the President of the Haitian Senate pledged to support the prompt ratification of the BWC by the National Assembly. PGA further reported that the ratification decree had been sent to the Parliament in March. In July, a second PGA delegation visited Haiti and met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials from the Senate and House of Deputies who confirmed that the BWC ratification bill will be on the agenda of the National Assembly for approval. On 25 August, a representative from Haiti took part in a briefing by the ISU to the 2017 United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Somalia**

9. No further information has been reported during 2017.

**Syrian Arab Republic**

10. No further information has been reported during 2017.

**United Republic of Tanzania**

11. In March, a member of parliament from Tanzania took part in Regional Africa Workshop on Universality and National Implementation of the BWC in Freetown, Sierra Leone organized by PGA. Following the event, Tanzania reported that positive steps are being taken towards ratification, which could take place in the near future. UNODA and the ISU have met with the Permanent Representative of Tanzania in Geneva to discuss ratification of the BWC and have regular discussions with Tanzanian officials with a view to a universalization mission in the coming months.

**V. States neither signed nor ratified****Chad**

12. On 21 June, PGA informed the ISU that the National Assembly of Chad, at the initiative of the Defence and Security Committee, had sent a formal written recommendation to the Government calling for Chad's accession to the BWC.

**Comoros**

13. No further information has been reported during 2017.

**Djibouti**

14. No further information has been reported during 2017.

**Eritrea**

15. No further information has been reported during 2017.

**Israel**

16. On 25 August, an official from Israel took part in a briefing for the 2017 United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme in Geneva, Switzerland, during which the ISU gave a presentation on the BWC. On the margins of the course, the representative of Israel expressed strong interest in the BWC and the threat posed by biological weapons.

**Kiribati**

17. From 27 to 28 July, an official from Kiribati took part in the regional workshop on universalization, hosted by Fiji in Nadi. The participant from Kiribati reported that the country does not have any BWC related legislation in place and is considering approaching other States Parties in order to seek assistance.

**Micronesia (Federated States of)**

18. No further information has been reported during 2017.

**Namibia**

19. In August, Namibia applied to the BWC sponsorship programme. The Chairman will review all applications in October and the ISU will establish an approved list of sponsored participants. In this specific case, Namibia's request for sponsorship could be approved by the Chairman in order to support universalization efforts. On 25 August, an official from Namibia took part in a briefing for the 2017 United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme in Geneva, Switzerland during which the ISU gave a presentation on the BWC.

**Niue**

20. From 27 to 28 July, an official from Niue took part in the regional workshop on universalization, hosted by Fiji in Nadi. During the event, the representative of Niue expressed interest in the BWC and stated that he did not see any insurmountable challenges in joining, although one obstacle could be the legal aspect. The representative said that he would recommend his government to make use of the assistance provided by VERTIC in this regard. In August, PGA reported to the ISU that the dossier for Niue's accession to the BWC was included on the agenda of the Cabinet.

**South Sudan**

21. On 27 July, the Chief of the ISU met with Mr Ramadan Tombe, from the Permanent Mission of South Sudan in Geneva and briefed him on the BWC. Mr Tombe undertook to transmit the information provided to the authorities in Juba.

**Tuvalu**

22. From 27 to 28 July, a participant from Tuvalu took part in the regional workshop on universalization, hosted by Fiji in Nadi. During the event, the representative of Tuvalu explained that it was participating for the first time in a dedicated BWC event, he noted the modest financial requirements with respect to joining the Convention and stated that Tuvalu is considering approaching VERTIC in order to discuss legal assistance related to the BWC.

## Annex

### List of States Parties to the Convention

(As at 22 September 2017)

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. Czechia
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
66. Guinea-Bissau



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

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

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

- 175. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- 176. Viet Nam
- 177. Yemen
- 178. Zambia
- 179. Zimbabwe

## **List of signatories to the Convention**

**(As at 22 September 2017)**

- 1. Central African Republic
  - 2. Egypt
  - 3. Haiti
  - 4. Somalia
  - 5. Syrian Arab Republic
  - 6. United Republic of Tanzania
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