

THE ISU & STATES PARTIES

The Sixth Review Conference requested States Parties to:

- ⇒ Provide the ISU with details of a **national point of contact** for BWC issues such as confidence-building measures, national implementation, and universalization activities;
- ⇒ Inform the ISU of **national measures** to implement the Convention, or update any information that has already been provided;
- ⇒ Inform the ISU of any activities undertaken (or planned for the future) that relate to **obtaining universality** for the Convention;
- ⇒ Compile and submit **confidence-building measures** each year.

In addition, States Parties are encouraged to inform the ISU of:

- ⇒ Any **capacity to provide assistance** to other States Parties for the:
 - Completion and submission of confidence-building measures;
 - Development, enactment and enforcement of national implementation measures;
 - Development, enactment and enforcement of biosafety and biosecurity measures;
- ⇒ Any **requirement for assistance** for the:
 - Completion and submission of confidence-building measures;
 - Development, enactment and enforcement of national implementation measures;
 - Development, enactment and enforcement of biosafety and biosecurity measures;
- ⇒ Any activities relating to the **implementation of Article X** of the Convention;

THE ISU & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Biological Weapons Convention is closely connected with a range of other international instruments and organizations. The text of the BWC itself links to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the Chemical Weapons Convention.



More recently the work of States Parties has also overlapped with initiatives of the UN Security Council, including Resolution 1540 on efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction into the hands of terrorists, and Interpol's bioterrorism programme and biocriminalization project.

Past meetings of the BWC have also benefited from the active participation of a range of international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Health Organization, and the World Organization for Animal Health.

More recently an even wider range of organizations has been contributing to the work of the Convention. Industrial, academic, professional, scientific, media, and ethical organizations have all helped in developing important common understandings.



The BWC has also benefited throughout its history from the research and other contributions of a number of non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

The ISU helps all these actors stay in touch and coordinate their efforts against biological weapons.

UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS



 **BWC**
IMPLEMENTATION
SUPPORT UNIT

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION
AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

SUPPORTING STATES PARTIES



The Sixth Review Conference of the BWC decided in December 2006 to create and fund an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) within the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

The ISU is to support the work of States Parties: during the 2007 – 2010 intersessional process; in the comprehensive implementation and universalization of the Convention; and through the exchange of confidence-building measures.

The ISU will provide concise annual reports on its activities to the annual Meeting of States Parties. It will have its mandate reviewed at the Seventh Review Conference in 2011.



The ISU has been tasked with:

- ⇒ Providing administrative support to and preparing documentation for meetings agreed by the Review Conference;
- ⇒ Facilitating communication among States Parties and, upon request, with international organizations;
- ⇒ Facilitating, upon request, States Parties' contacts with scientific and academic institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations;
- ⇒ Serving as a focal point for submission of information by and to States Parties related to the Convention;
- ⇒ Supporting, as appropriate, the implementation by the States Parties of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conference.

CBMS, UNIVERSALIZATION & IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to its administrative tasks, the ISU has a role to play in a variety of other activities, including:

Confidence-Building Measures



- ⇒ Receiving and distributing CBMs to/from States Parties;
- ⇒ Compiling and distributing data on CBMs and on participation;
- ⇒ Developing and maintaining a secure website on CBMs;
- ⇒ Serving as an information exchange point for assistance;
- ⇒ Facilitating activities to promote participation.

Implementing the Convention

- ⇒ Consolidating and maintaining details of information on domestic measures relevant to the Convention, including under Articles IV & X;
- ⇒ Maintaining a list of national points of contact for national implementation; and
- ⇒ Acting as a clearinghouse for national implementation assistance.



Promoting Universalization

- ⇒ Supporting the Chairs of Meetings of States Parties in universalization activities;
- ⇒ Maintaining a list of national points of contact;
- ⇒ Consolidating and making available information on progress towards ratification.



Over three quarters of the countries of the world are already members of the BWC – current efforts are designed to get the remainder to join.

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