

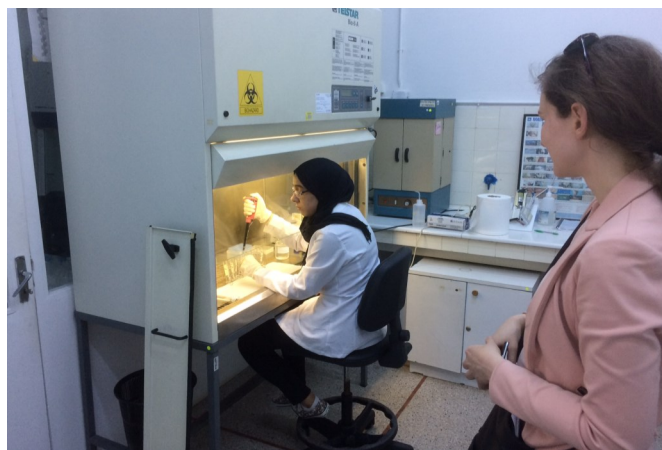
# BWC NEWSLETTER

Issue 4/2017

May—June 2017

## Pilot Peer Review Exercise on national implementation of the BWC in Morocco

Morocco conducted a peer review exercise from 9 to 11 May 2017. The three-day event was supported by the European Union under EU Council Decision 2016/51. The exercise had the overarching objective to broaden support for the concept of a peer review mechanism and to further explore its relevance. In particular, the exercise aimed at strengthening national implementation of the BWC, improving confidence in compliance by increased transparency, and deepening international cooperation. The exercise built upon the three previous peer reviews conducted in France (2013), the BENELUX countries (2015) and Germany (2016). It was the first time that such an



exercise took place outside the EU.

Some 45 national representatives attended together with 15 international experts from ten BWC States Parties: Belgium, China, France, Gabon, Germany, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States and one staff member from the BWC Implementation Support Unit. The national participants belonged to various Moroccan institutions including the Ministries of Health, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, and Higher Education, the Directorates General of National Security and Civil Protection, the National Institute of Hygiene, the National Office for the Safety of Food Products, and the Moroccan Biosafety Associations MOBSA and AMBS.



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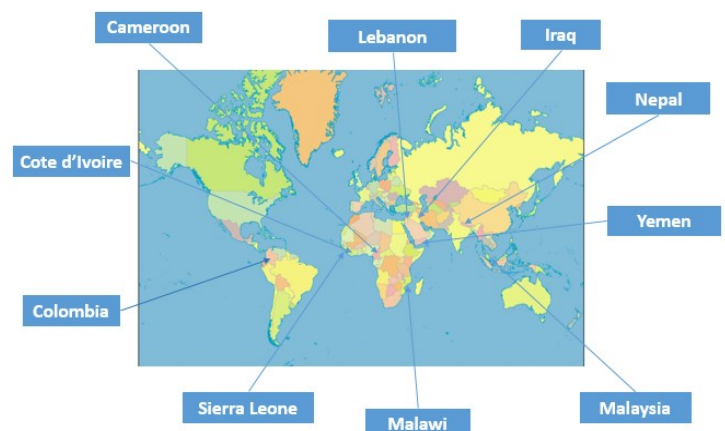
On the first day, a workshop brought together various national governmental and non-governmental stakeholders as well as the international participants to address a wide range of national implementation aspects. This workshop served as a platform to develop a set of recommendations for follow-up action, with input and suggestions from the international experts. This was followed by two days of visits at different governmental and commercial institutions in Rabat (National Institute for Safety of Food Products, 'Biopharma' Animal Vaccine Production facility, and the National Institute of Hygiene) and Casablanca (Moulay Youssef hospital and Pasteur Institute). The primary aims were to enhance confidence in compliance and provide an opportunity for discussions on national implementation and international cooperation aspects. Overall, participants commended the Moroccan authorities for the well organized event that was conducted with a very high level of transparency.



## Update on the Start of Extended Assistance Programmes under EU Council Decision 2016/51

In March 2017, the 10 States Parties that would receive EU support were announced at a workshop in Geneva (the report can be found [here](#) and see also BWC Newsletter n°3). Discussions have already taken place with Malaysia, Cote d'Ivoire and Colombia. All

10 Extended Assistance Programmes will be initiated in the year 2017. At this stage, 13 EU Member States have nominated 59 experts to support the conduct of these Extended Assistance Programmes. In addition, ODA can make use of a number of experts from NGOs and International Organizations to facilitate these programmes.



## Latest news for BWC States Parties

### Informal meeting on organizational issues for 2017 MSP

- On 7 June 2017, the BWC Depositaries will convene an informal meeting in Geneva to discuss organizational issues for the Meeting of States Parties in December. More information is available in a [letter](#) from the ISU. The ISU sent a related [letter](#) on 26 May updating States Parties on the office-holders for the MSP.

**Status of Assessed Contributions** - The Financial Resources Management Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva has provided a [summary](#) of the financial contributions to the four disarmament conventions, as of 31 May 2017. Detailed information pertaining to the contributions to the BWC is contained in Annex II of the document. The Eighth BWC Review Conference in November 2016 requested States Parties to proceed with the payment of their share of the estimated costs as soon as the assessment notices have been received. The assessment notices were sent to all States Parties on 13 February 2017.

### CBM status - submissions for reporting year 2016 (statistics as of 6 June 2017)

- 58 States Parties (i.e. 33 per cent of all States Parties) have thus far submitted their CBMs for the calendar year 2016. Information on the individual CBM submissions and some basic statistics can be found on the [BWC website](#). In 2016, 81 States Parties had submitted CBMs for the calendar year 2015. This represented the highest ever number of CBMs received. The deadline for the submission of Confidence-Building Measure reports covering activities in 2016 was **15 April 2017**.

### Registration Now Open for Upcoming OSP Workshop *NIH Guidelines: Honoring the Past, Charting the Future*

- In honor of the recent 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules* (*NIH Guidelines*) as well as the emergence of new technologies in the life sciences, it is an opportune time to examine the current biosafety oversight framework, and discuss the future direction of biosafety oversight. The NIH Office of Science Policy will be hosting a workshop that will ask, if the Asilomar Conference were to be held today, what would the *NIH Guidelines* look like? This workshop will be held on 18 and 19 July, 2017, in Rockville, MD. For additional details and to register please visit the [workshop website](#). Questions about the workshop may be sent to [NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov](mailto:NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov).

### Applications Now Open for PhD fellowships offered by the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World

- The 2017 call for applications is now open for the OWSD PhD Training Fellowships for Women Scientists from Science and Technology Lagging Countries. Fellowships will be awarded in the agricultural sciences, structural, cell and molecular biology, biological systems and organisms and medical and health sciences. Apply [here](#) before **19 June 2017**.



## BWC ISU activities May– June 2017

### Parliamentarians for Global Action Regional Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the BWC, Santiago, Chile (15 May 2017)

Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief BWC-ISU, and Ms Ana Izar, Political Affairs Officer, briefed legislators and government officials from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Haiti, Paraguay and Uruguay via Skype on the importance and relevance of the Convention. At the end of the workshop, representatives adopted a Plan of Action ([English](#) / [French](#) / [Spanish](#) version) to facilitate crucial follow up actions. Further information on the event, including presentations can be found [here](#).



PGA Regional Workshop in Santiago, Chile

### Fifth International Meeting of the National Focal Points of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, Brussels (17 May 2017)

Mr. Daniel Feakes participated in two sessions of this event. The first, entitled “Interregional session on Interaction between the EU CBRN CoE and the implementation of International Conventions” consisted in a panel discussion featuring participation from IAEA, Interpol and OPCW, as well as the BWC ISU. During the second session, twenty National Action Plans developed with the support of the EU CBRN CoE were presented in poster format , providing the opportunity to interact directly with National Focal Points from these countries and to discuss their needs and explore possible avenues of international and/or regional cooperation.



Fifth International Meeting of the National Focal Points of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative in Brussels, Belgium

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### **Briefing to Senior Pakistani Officials, Geneva, Switzerland (17 May 2017)**

Mr. Alex Lampalzer, Deputy Chief BWC-ISU gave a briefing on the BWC to a group of senior Pakistani officials currently attending national management training. Upon informing about the essentials of the BWC including current challenges faced by the Convention, he highlighted science and technology trends impacting on the BWC, and summarized the role assumed and positions taken by Pakistan as concerns the BWC. Furthermore, other ODA staff informed about the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery including related activities going on in Geneva.



**Briefing to Senior Pakistani Officials**

### **Briefing to students from Kennesaw State University, Geneva, Switzerland (18 May 2017)**

Postgraduate students in the Master of Science in International Policy Management at Kennesaw State University received briefings from ODA Staff in Geneva. Mr. Alex Lampalzer briefed students on the BWC, presenting the underpinnings of multilateral security regimes, the key challenges and issues concerning the BWC. In addition, the Q&A session addressed the question how to achieve cooperation between states, private and public sectors in disarmament issues.



**Briefing to students from Kennesaw State University**

## Recent publications on issues of relevance to the BWC

Disclaimer: the views and opinions in the publications are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ISU or States Parties. Items are included as a service to readers and do not imply endorsement. The ISU is not responsible for the content of third party websites.

**Christian Enemark (January 2017): Biosecurity Dilemmas: Dreaded Diseases, Ethical Responses, and the Health of Nations** - This book examines conflicting values and interests in the practice of biosecurity. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the ethics of securitizing disease and explores ideas and policy recommendations about biological arms control, global health security, and public health ethics.

**Dagmar Rychnovská (May 2017): Bio(in)security, scientific expertise, and the politics of post-disarmament in the biological weapons regime (Department of Security Studies, Metropolitan University Prague)** - This paper, drawing on sociological approaches in security studies, unfolds the connections between the construction of biosecurity and the politics of expertise and explores the changing role of scientific experts in biological disarmament.

**Natasha E. Bajema and Diane DiEuliis, Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction (May 2017): Peril and Promise: Emerging Technologies and WMD (Emergence and Convergence Workshop Report 13–14 October 2016)** - This report provides a summary of the proceedings at the Emergence and Convergence Workshop, followed by a more in-depth treatment of the discussion for each technology group. Synthetic biology is studied as one of five science and technology developments that could alter and increase the threats from weapons of mass destruction.

**Australian Academy of Sciences (May 2017): Synthetic Gene Drives in Australia: implications of emerging technologies** - This discussion paper considers synthetic gene drives in a specifically Australian context and highlights the potential benefits and hazards of possible applications, emphasizing the need to eventually consider these within a risk assessment framework.

**Swiss Academy of Sciences (May 2017): Misuse potential and biosecurity in life sciences research (Swiss academies reports, Vol. 12 N° 3, 2017)** - This report intends to form a discussion basis for scientists on how to address the dual use dilemma of biological research. It highlights issues that should be considered when designing, conducting, and communicating research projects.

**Marco Fey, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (May 2017): 3D Printing and International Security (PRIF Report No. 144)** Marco Fey explains the basics of 3D Printing technology, describes its current applications, and provides an overview of its global diffusion. He shows the potential and opportunities of additive manufacturing and analyzes its possible risks inter alia regarding biological weapons.

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J.A. Carrera, A.J. Castiglioni, P.M. Heine (Spring 2017): [Chemical and Biological Contract Manufacturing Services: Potential Proliferation Concerns and Impacts on Strategic Trade Controls](#) (Strategic Trade Review . Vol. 3, N°04) - This article examines the dual-use potential and global spread of chemical and biological contract manufacturing and their ramifications for related strategic trade controls.

European Academies Science Advisory Council (March 2017): [Genome editing: scientific opportunities, public interests and policy options in the European Union](#) (EASAC policy report 31.) - This report takes a broad perspective on the research advances in human, animal and plant genome editing and in their potential applicability in different sectors to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges, and to advise on the options to ensure an appropriate framework for managing innovation.

## Staff news

**Ms Ana Izar**, Political Affairs Officer for the Implementation of EU Council Decision 2016/51, started her maternity leave on 18 May. We would like to congratulate Ana on the birth of a baby girl on 2 June. Ana will return to UNODA in Autumn 2017.

**Mr Jean Pascal Zanders** joined UNODA on 18 May, replacing Ms Izar until mid September. He will coordinate the implementation of EU Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the BWC. Mr Zanders, an independent researcher at The Trench, was previously a Senior Research Fellow at the EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris. In 2016 he already assisted UNODA with the start up of the EU-sponsored project.

**Ms Madeline McSherry** joined UNODA as an intern in early June. Madeline is a freelance writer and the co-founder and editor of Foreign Policy Rising, a platform for women writing about international affairs. Previously, she worked in marketing and communications in Zurich and New York and taught English as a Fulbright Scholar in Madrid. She holds an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and a BA in English from Boston College.

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### Implementation of EU Council Decision 2016/51

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