

BWC NEWSLETTER

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Large number of BWC States Parties request EU support for BWC implementation

Following a call for applications addressed to States Parties on 16 December 2016 as part of the launch of Project 3: “Capacity Development for BWC Implementation” under EU Council Decision 2016/51, applications have been received from 27 BWC States Parties. Developing States Parties from around the world have applied, with West Africa bringing in the most applicants, followed by South East Asia and the Middle East and North Africa.

The high number of applications clearly underlines the continued need for programmes to strengthen the national implementation of the Convention, as well as the strong interest of States Parties to develop this type of national capacity. It also demonstrates the continuing high level of interest in the BWC and the relevance which many developing States Parties give to the Convention in terms of improving national biosafety and biosecurity.

Under Project 3, the EU will support capacity development for BWC national implementation in technical, legislative and policy areas identified by the requesting States Parties themselves. Out of the 27 applicants, eight BWC States Parties are expected to receive support under the Council Decision during 2017 and 2018. The selection process will be concluded at the end of March 2017 in consultation with the European External Action Service.

Each Extended Assistance Programme will run for approximately 12 months and will be developed in partnership with the beneficiary countries. Each national programme will comprise an initial national assessment workshop, the development and execution of a structured Action Plan and a wrap-up workshop following the conclusion of the activities. EU experts will conduct in-country visits and training activities, and national experts from the beneficiary countries will receive training in EU Member States. A preparatory workshop for the EU experts will take place on 29 March, as described in more detail on page 2.

Foreword from the Chief of the BWC ISU

Dear Reader,

I would like to thank you for the many positive comments received about the ISU’s initiative to produce a BWC Newsletter. While the Meeting of States Parties will not take place until early December 2017, a number of activities will be carried out throughout the year. Most notably, in the coming months, the implementation of EU Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the BWC will proceed with a variety of in-country visits, workshops and related activities. Further information is provided in this Newsletter. We wish you interesting reading and appreciate any comments and suggestions, which can be sent to bwc@unog.ch.

Yours,

Daniel Feakes

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Latest news for BWC States Parties

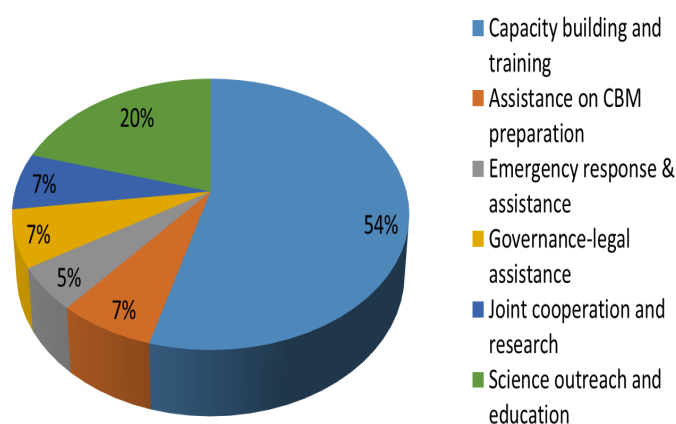
Upcoming workshop in support of the Extended Assistance Programmes under EU Council

Decision 2016/51 - The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Delegation of the European Union to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva will co-organize the “Workshop in support of the BWC Extended Assistance Programmes” on 29 March 2017 in Geneva. Organised under Project 3 of the EU Council Decision 2016/51, the workshop will bring together nominated experts from EU Member States, international organisations and non-governmental organisations, to discuss best practices and appropriate preparations to provide capacity development assistance to the beneficiary States Parties selected for support under the Extended Assistance Programmes. The workshop will provide a forum to gather for the first time many of the 50 EU experts nominated by their respective national governments. These experts will be instrumental in providing the necessary technical, legislative and policy assistance requested by beneficiary States Parties to strengthen national implementation of the BWC throughout 2017 and 2018.

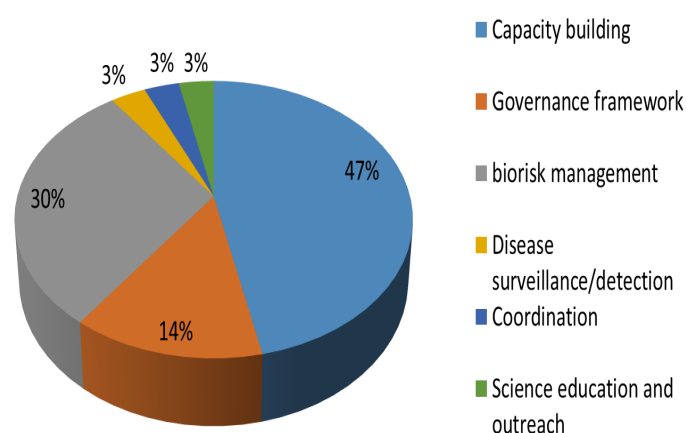
Feedback on the improvement of the Cooperation & Assistance Database - The Eighth Review Conference mandated that the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), with inputs to be provided by States Parties, "will seek to improve the database to ensure that it is more user-friendly and comprehensive, and ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of and requests for cooperation be provided by States Parties in the database." The ISU therefore wrote to States Parties on 15 December 2016 to invite them to submit inputs on the cooperation and assistance database by 28 February 2017. Thus far, eight States Parties (Albania, Canada, Cuba, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom) have responded. Suggestions received include both conceptual and specific technical proposals for the improvement of the database. The ISU will compile all comments into an informal paper, which will be posted on the BWC website and distributed to States Parties. Subsequently, the ISU plans to hold an informal technical meeting to discuss the proposed improvements.

Status of offers and requests under the Cooperation and Assistance Database - As of 17 March 2017, the database contains 59 offers and 30 requests for assistance (the latter accessible through the restricted part of the BWC website).

59 offers made by nine SPs and one group of SPs



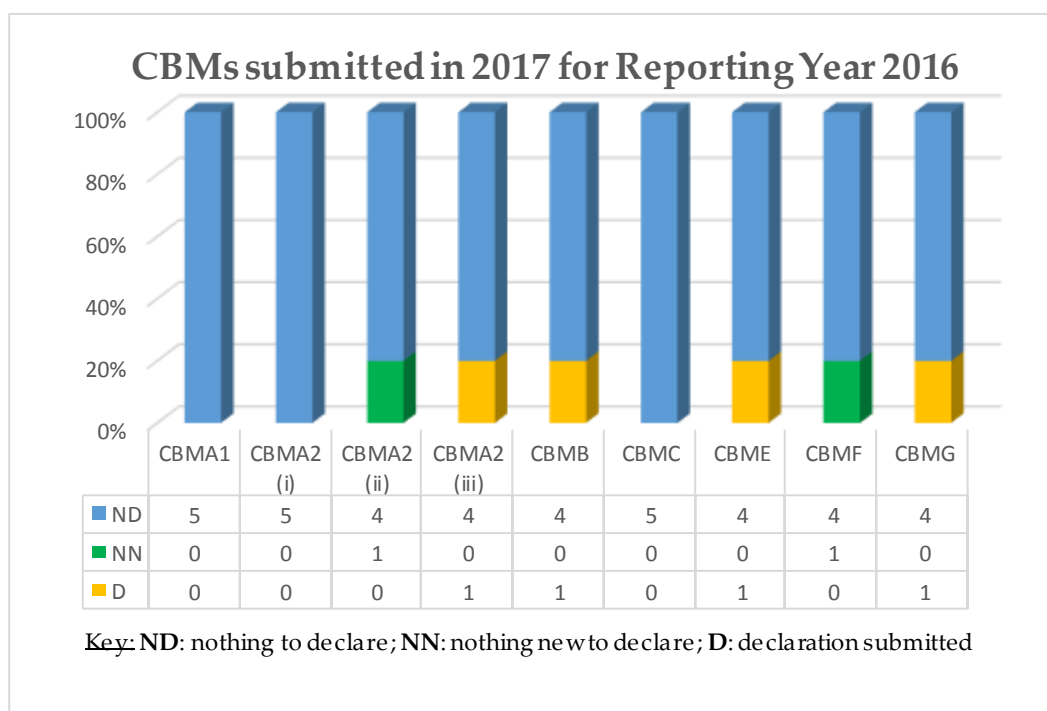
30 requests from six SPs



Latest news for BWC States Parties (cont.)

Status of 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 28 February 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 17 March 2017) - Five 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. The deadline for the submission of Confidence-Building Measure reports covering activities in 2016 is **15 April 2017**.



Official documents issued

The Final Document of the Eighth Review Conference (BWC/CONF.VIII/4) has been translated in all six UN official languages. In addition, a Corrigendum to the Final Document has also been issued in English ([BWC/CONF.VIII/4, Corr.1](#)).

[عربي](#)

[中文](#)

[English](#)

[Français](#)

[Русский](#)

[Español](#)

BWC ISU activities February—March 2017

G7 Global Partnership Meeting, Rome (22—24 February 2017)

Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief BWC-ISU attended a meeting of the Working Group of the G7 Global Partnership against the spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. The meeting had a strong focus on technical cooperation for African countries and Mr. Feakes discussed assistance needs with several countries and briefed on assistance options under the BWC. Moreover, Mr. Feakes spoke in a session on global preparedness and response.



Plenary session at the Global Partnership Meeting

Visit by a Delegation of the Bundeswehr Verification Center (22 February 2017)

A delegation of the German Bundeswehr Verification Center led by its Commanding Officer Brigadier General Peter Braunstein paid a visit to UNODA on 22 February 2017. Following welcome remarks by Ms. Mary Soliman, Acting Director UNODA Geneva Branch, Mr. Alex Lampalzer briefed the delegation on the BWC, including the outcome of the Eighth Review Conference.



Visit of the German Delegation from the Bundeswehr Verification Center

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.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2017): Human Genome Editing: Science, Ethics, and Governance - this comprehensive report examines scientific, ethical and social issues related to genome editing.

Recent publications on issues of relevance to the BWC (cont.)

Jennifer Nuzzo (2017): John Hopkins Center for Health Security Teams with NTI and the Economist Intelligence Unit to Develop A Global Health Security Index (John Hopkins Center for Health Security) - the brief article informs about plans to develop a Global Health Security Index, which should facilitate identification of areas in greatest need of improvement and create political incentives for health security investments.

Ana Sánchez Cobaleda (2017): La 8ª Conferencia de Examen de la Convención sobre la Prohibición de Armas Biológicas: una nueva oportunidad perdida (Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos, 11/2017) - the report provides an analysis of the outcome of the Eighth Review Conference.

James Revill (2017): "We're Doomed!" (CBRNe World, February 2017) — the article provides an assessment of the potential misuse of advances in life sciences and underlines a need to regularly monitor developments in science and technology under the BWC.

Suerie Moon et al. (2017): Post- Ebola reforms: ample analysis, inadequate action (British Medical Journal 2017) — the article provides an analysis of seven major reports published on lessons identified from the Ebola response operation and highlights areas of consensus on action. In addition, the document also assesses progress made and makes recommendations to address existing gaps.

UN News Centre (2017): New UN supply chain to slash delays, save lives in large-scale health crises — the article informs about the introduction of an end-to-end supply chain information system at WFP, which will enable quick and appropriate delivery of supplies in the event of large-scale health crises.

Jez Littlewood (2016): The art of looking for trouble and finding it everywhere (CBRNeWorld, December 2016) - the article analyses the outcome of the Eighth Review Conference and its potential wider implications for the Convention.

Other information

Health Systems Strengthening: Ensuring Effective Health Supply Chains — The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have issued a joint call for innovative and potentially transformative solutions with the potential to overcome key roadblocks to more effective health supply chains in low- and middle-income countries. Further information for grant seekers can be found [here](#).

Staff news

Ms. Clarisse Bertherat finished her internship with the ISU on 10 March 2017. We thank her for her hard work in support of the BWC and wish her all the best for her future endeavors.

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