

**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**

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda
Progress with universalization of the Convention

Report on universalization activities

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). 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 2014. 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 170 States Parties (listed in the annex), with ten signatories and 16 States having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 26 States are not party to the Convention.

I. Introduction

1. Since the last report on universalization activities (BWC/MSP/2013/3), the number of States Parties remains at 170 (see annex). A further ten States have signed but not ratified the Convention and 16 States have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. This report outlines what is known about these 26 States.
2. On 12 June 2014, Andorra reported to the ISU that its Government approved the accession of Andorra to the Convention on 11 June. The dossier has been transferred to the Parliament for approval, before issuing an instrument of accession. Further details will be found below.
3. On 8 October 2014, the United States of America reported to the ISU that Angola intends to accede in the near future, and that an Angolan interagency commission has been created to assist with the accession. The representative from Angola was optimistic about prospects of accession before the end of the year. Further details will be found below.

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4. On 14 October 2014, on the request of Myanmar, the ISU met the Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar at the United Nations Office at Geneva, to discuss the detailed procedure of the deposit of the instrument of ratification. As of 18 October, the instrument of ratification is under drafting, before submission to the Head of State. Myanmar hoped to deposit the instrument in mid-November.

II. Activities to promote universalization

5. Since the 2013 Meeting of States Parties, the following universalization activities have been undertaken and reported to the Chairman or the ISU:

(a) On 6 May 2014, the Chairman hosted an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, together with representatives of the Depositary Governments: the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Myanmar and Nepal attended the briefing.

(b) Throughout the year, the ISU remained in close contact with representatives of the state of Andorra. On the latter's request, the ISU provided additional information related to the Convention and its accession.

(c) On 18 June 2014, a letter from the Chairman was sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra to congratulate its Government on the approval of the accession to the BWC. The Chairman encouraged Andorra to participate in the 2014 BWC Meetings.

(d) In 2014, assistance regarding ratification or accession and national implementation processes was provided to Mauritania, Myanmar and Nepal by the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).

(e) One representative from Haiti was sponsored to attend the Meeting of Experts in August 2014, with the support of the United States of America, through the BWC sponsorship programme.

(f) Two representatives from Mauritania were sponsored to attend the Meeting of Experts in August 2014, with the support of Germany, through the BWC sponsorship programme.

(g) Nepal was awarded one of the seven **extended assistance programmes** which are part of the EU funded Action in support of the BWC. Initiating the process of ratification of the BWC will form part of the programme. Details are listed under section IV below. Additionally, one representative of Nepal, was sponsored to attend the Meeting of Experts in August 2014, through the EU funded Action in support of the BWC.

(h) On 27 August, the Chairman and the ISU respectively gave a briefing and a presentation to the participants in the 2014 United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants included individuals from States not party to the Convention.

(i) Since September 2014, the ISU remained in close contact with representatives of Myanmar. On the latter's request, the ISU provided additional information related to the Convention and its ratification. Additionally, a bilateral meeting was organised, on the request of Myanmar, on 14 October 2014, to discuss in detail the procedure of the deposit of the instrument of ratification.

(j) Throughout the year, the Chairman held a number of bilateral meetings in Geneva and New York with representatives of States not party to the Convention.

(k) The Chair and the ISU met with representatives from Haiti, Nepal and Mauritania on the margins of the Meeting of Experts to discuss universalization.

(l) The ISU remained in regular contact with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to coordinate mutual universalization efforts.

(m) 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.

6. To date, two States Parties have reported that they have taken action bilaterally to promote universalization of the Convention in 2014: Germany, and the United States of America. Details are listed in the respective entries in sections IV and V below. Throughout the year, the ISU has been coordinating with the depositary Governments (the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) on various universalization related matters.

III. Overview of current status

7. Activities held 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.

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

Table 1
States not party and signatories by geographical region

<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), Myanmar*, Nepal*, Niue, Samoa, Syrian Arab Republic*, Tuvalu	9
Latin America and Caribbean	Haiti*	1
Africa	Angola, Central African Republic*, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire*, Djibouti, Egypt*, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia*, Mauritania, Namibia, Somalia*, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania*	15
Europe	Andorra	1

* Signatory (not ratified).

Table 2
States not party and signatories by progress towards accession or ratification

<i>Situation</i>	<i>States not party and signatories to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Andorra, Angola, Comoros, Myanmar*	4
Accession or ratification process started	Djibouti, Guinea, Haiti*, Namibia, Nepal*, United Republic of Tanzania*	6
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Central African Republic*, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire*, Eritrea, Liberia*, Mauritania, Samoa, Somalia*, South Sudan, Tuvalu	10
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	3
No information or feedback yet received	Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue	3

IV. Signatories

Central African Republic

9. No further information has been reported since 2011.

Côte d'Ivoire

10. On 6 May 2014, Côte d'Ivoire took part in an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, hosted by the Chair together with representatives of the Depositary Governments.

Egypt

11. On 27 August 2014, a representative from Egypt participated in the 2014 United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme in Geneva, where the Chairman and the ISU respectively gave a briefing and a presentation on the BWC.

Haiti

12. A capital-based representative of Haiti was sponsored by the United States of America, in support of the BWC sponsorship programme, to participate in the Meeting of Experts in Geneva in August 2014. On the margins of the Meeting of Expert, an informal meeting was organised between the Chair, the ISU and Haiti to discuss universalization issues. The representative from Haiti was very positive about the BWC dossier, and the official announced Haiti's intention to finalize the process of ratification. As a follow-up, Haiti contacted the ISU in September to request assistance related to national implementation and legislation. The ISU is currently in contact with various potential assistance providers for Haiti.

Liberia

13. No further information has been reported since 2012.

* Signatory (not ratified).

Myanmar

14. VERTIC reported that they are continuing to engage with national officials on BWC ratification and national implementation of the Convention. They have proposed a BWC ratification workshop to take place in the second week of December 2014 and await acceptance of this proposal from the Government of Myanmar. The United States of America participated in a discussion on non-proliferation and security issues among governmental and non-governmental experts from Myanmar, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 7 to 8 February 2014 in Myanmar. An official participant from Myanmar indicated that internal processes have begun for ratification of both the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. On 6 May 2014, Myanmar took part in an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, hosted by the Chair together with representatives of the Depositary Governments. The representative from Myanmar announced that the process of ratification is moving along and that the instrument is being reviewed by all pertinent ministries within the Government. On 14 October 2014, on the request of Myanmar, the ISU met the Minister Counsellor of the Permanent mission of Myanmar at the United Nations Office at Geneva, to discuss the detailed procedure of the deposit of the instrument of ratification. As of 18 October, the instrument of ratification is under drafting, before submission to the Head of State. Myanmar hoped to deposit the instrument in mid-November.

Nepal

15. Nepal received an assistance programme under the EU funded Action in Support of the BWC and the following assistance activities were carried out from January to August 2014: On 20-21 February, an initial workshop on BWC awareness raising and national implementation; during March-April, authorities in Nepal reconfirmed the formation of a National Authority for national implementation of the BWC; on 9-10 June, a workshop addressing national implementation measures and the relevance of establishing a BWC National Committee took place; the event was followed on 11-13 June by an assistance visit (carried out by VERTIC and funded by the EU funded Action in Support of the BWC) focusing on legislation; and a draft BWC bill was developed and a time line for ratification was set for the end of 2015. VERTIC reported that Nepal expressed strong interest in having implementing legislation ready before ratification of the Convention.

16. On 6 May 2014, Nepal took part in an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, hosted by the Chair together with representatives of the Depositary Governments. A capital-based representative of Nepal, sponsored by the EU funded Action in Support of the BWC, participated in the Meeting of Experts in Geneva in August 2014. On the margins of the Meeting of Experts, an informal meeting was organised between the Chair, the ISU and Nepal to discuss universalization issues. The representative from Nepal was very positive about the BWC dossier, highlighting its importance and the intention of his Government to soon become a State Party.

Somalia

17. No information has been reported since 2008.

Syrian Arab Republic

18. The Syrian Arab Republic has traditionally linked the ratification of the Convention to other regional security considerations. The accession of Syria to the Chemical Weapons Convention may have opened an opportunity for the BWC.

United Republic of Tanzania

19. The United Republic of Tanzania took part in the BWC Meeting of Experts, which took place in Geneva from 4 to 8 August 2014.

V. States neither signed nor ratified

Andorra

20. Throughout the year, the ISU and Andorra have been keeping close contact in order to discuss universalization issues. On 12 June 2014, Andorra reported to the ISU that its Government approved the accession of Andorra to the Convention on 11 June. The dossier has been transferred to the Parliament for approval, before issuing an instrument of accession. The representative of Andorra added that his Government is hoping to become a State Party by the end of 2014. On 18 June 2014, a letter from the Chairman was sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra to congratulate its Government on the approval of the accession of Andorra to the BWC. The Chairman encouraged Andorra to participate in the 2014 BWC Meetings. The United States of America reported that a letter from the US Assistant Secretary of State has been sent to the Andorran Minister of Foreign Affairs to commend the Principality of Andorra on recent steps taken to complete the process of accession to the Convention, encouraged speedy accession, and to provide information in the event that Andorra wishes to deposit its instrument of accession with the United States of America. The United States of America added in its report that, on 29 July 2014, Andorra confirmed that the instrument of accession is likely to be considered by the Andorran Parliament in fall.

Angola

21. The United States of America reported that, in March 2014, its Secretary of State sent a letter to Angola to encourage the Government to complete the process of accession to the Convention, and offered assistance with accession and national implementation.

22. On 6 May 2014, Angola took part in an informal briefing and discussion on the Convention at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York, hosted by the Chair together with representatives of the Depositary Governments. During this briefing, Angola announced that it was actively seeking to complete the accession process, hopefully by the end of the year. The representative added that his Government would welcome capacity building assistance. The United States of America, reported that during the same informal briefing, the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations in New York, indicated to the US Assistant Secretary of State that he was optimistic about prospects of accession before the end of the year.

23. The United States of America reported that, in September 2014, the US Acting Assistant Secretary visited Luanda to encourage Angolan accession to both the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions. He met with senior officials representing the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Interior, as well as with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Angolan Parliament, and he also emphasized the importance of accession in a number of Angolan media interviews. He was informed that Angola intends to accede in the near term, and that an interagency commission has been created to this end.

Chad

24. No further information has been reported since 2012.

Comoros

25. Information reported in October 2007 indicated that a draft instrument of accession was awaiting signature by the President of Comoros. No further information has been reported since 2013.

Djibouti

26. No further information has been reported since 2013.

Eritrea

27. No further information has been reported since 2013.

Guinea

28. The Netherlands reported in 2011 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. No further information has been reported since 2011.

Israel

29. Israel took part in the BWC Meeting of Experts, which took place in Geneva from 4 to 8 August 2014.

Kiribati

30. No further information has been reported since 2011.

Mauritania

31. Two capital-based representatives of Mauritania were sponsored by Germany, in support of the BWC sponsorship programme, to participate in the Meeting of Experts in Geneva in August 2014. VERTIC reported to have provided the following French-language documents to a Mauritanian official participating in the 2014 Meeting of Experts to the BWC: A model instrument of accession to the BWC as well as VERTIC fact sheets on national implementation of the BWC and the establishment of a national authority. The United States of America reported that a representative of Mauritania approached the United States of America Delegation at the August 2014 Meeting of Experts with questions about the process of BWC accession. The United States of America added to have provided Mauritania the information requested. On the margins of the Meeting of Expert, an informal meeting was organised between the Chair, the ISU and Mauritania to discuss universalization issues. The representatives from Mauritania were very positive about the BWC dossier, highlighting its importance and the intention of their Government to soon become a State Party. As the current President of the African Union, Mauritania invited the BWC Chair and the ISU to meet and brief the Union about the BWC.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

32. No information has been reported since 2009.

Namibia

33. No further information has been reported since 2013.

Niue

34. No further information has been reported since 2012.

Samoa

35. No further information has been reported since 2012.

South Sudan

36. No further information has been reported since 2013.

Tuvalu

37. No further information has been reported since 2013.

Annex

List of States Parties to the Convention

As at 15 September 2014

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

As at 15 September 2014

Greece	Grenada
Guatemala	Guinea-Bissau
Guyana	Holy See
Honduras	Hungary
Iceland	India
Indonesia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq	Ireland
Italy	Jamaica
Japan	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kenya
Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Latvia
Lebanon	Lesotho
Libya	Liechtenstein
Lithuania	Luxembourg
Madagascar	Malawi
Malaysia	Maldives
Mali	Malta
Marshall Islands	Mauritius
Mexico	Monaco
Mongolia	Montenegro
Morocco	Mozambique
Nauru	Netherlands
New Zealand	Nicaragua
Niger	Nigeria
Norway	Oman
Palau	Pakistan
Panama	Papua New Guinea
Paraguay	Peru
Philippines	Poland
Portugal	Qatar
Republic of Moldova	Republic of Korea

As at 15 September 2014

Romania	Russian Federation
Rwanda	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
San Marino	Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia	Senegal
Serbia	Seychelles
Sierra Leone	Singapore
Slovakia	Slovenia
Solomon Islands	South Africa
Spain	Sri Lanka
Sudan	Suriname
Swaziland	Sweden
Switzerland	Tajikistan
Thailand	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Timor Leste	Togo
Tonga	Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia	Turkey
Turkmenistan	Uganda
Ukraine	United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	United States of America
Uzbekistan	Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Vanuatu
Yemen	Viet Nam
Zimbabwe	Zambia

List of signatories to the Convention

As at 15 September 2014

Central African Republic	Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt	Haiti
Liberia	Myanmar
Nepal	Somalia
Syrian Arab Republic	United Republic of Tanzania
