The Biological Weapons Convention
Obligations After Accession/Succession

Regional Workshop for the Pacific Region
Nadi, Fiji 27-28 July 2017

#BWCPacific
@BWCISU

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Overview

• Financial Contributions
• National Contact Point
• National Implementation
• Confidence Building Measures
Financing the BWC

- Costs are shared by all States Parties.
- Covers costs for:
  - BWC Meeting of States Parties (incl. documentation and interpretation costs)
  - 3 BWC ISU staff
  - Limited travel budget and office hardware.
- Based on percentage of UN 2017 scale of assessment taking into account difference in membership between UN and BWC.
- Total cost in 2017: $1,109,500.
- 110 States Parties pay less than $1,000 per year and 68 and 52 pay less than $100.
- Status of Assessed Contributions as of 30 June 2017: 64 SPs didn’t pay contributions (2001-2016): USD 322,127.
- Overpayments made by a number of countries that secure the work of the ISU and the conduct of the MSP 2017.
BWC assessed contributions (2017)
total: USD 1,109,500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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National Implementation

Article IV:
- *take any natl. measures necessary to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, or retention of agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Art. I of the BWC*

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Review Conferences called upon States Parties:
- “to adopt, in accordance with their constitutional processes, legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures, including penal legislation, designed to ... enhance domestic implementation of the Convention and ensure the prohibition and prevention of the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery as specified in Article I of the Convention."
National Implementation

• Challenge for many SPs, requiring education of, and coordination between different national stakeholders - importance of whole-of-government approach

• Best practices include, inter alia:
  • Establishing a central POC for coordinating natl. BWC implementation
  • Establishing mechanisms for regular communication amongst key stakeholders, e.g. a regular meeting of an intergovernmental committee
  • Ensuring regular and timely participation in the CBMs process, including by involving all relevant areas of government and related areas;
  • Organizing awareness-raising workshops and training to facilitate communication and coordination between natl. stakeholders
  • Promoting the BWC through related initiatives, such as outreach to industry, education and research sectors

• Regional and sub-regional cooperation in assisting national implementation – to take into account natl. circumstances and legal and constitutional processes

• Assistance available under the BWC
National Contact Points (NCPs)

• BWC does not oblige to establish National Authority

• Sixth Review Conference decided that each SP should designate a NCP

• Role and Responsibilities:
  • Act as national focal point on BWC matters and communicate with other SPs and relevant IOs
  • Coordinate and facilitate national implementation
  • Coordinate the submission of CBMs

• Nomination form can be downloaded from BWC website

• Information on NCPs accessible via restricted part BWC website
National Contact Points nominated in the Pacific Region

- Micronesia (Committee on External Affairs)
- Palau (MOH)
- Australia (DFAT)
- New Zealand (MFAT)

In total, 113 nominations from:
- 109 SPs
- 1 Signatory State
- 3 States not party
Aim of CBMs

... to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions, and in order to improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities

Role
- Enhance transparency & strengthen trust
- Increase confidence in compliance
- provide a useful review of the status of national implementation
- Not a tool for verification

Implementation Aspects
- Politically binding
- Annual submission (deadline 15 April)
Evolution of CBMs

- **1986**
  - Agreement on concept and content of CBMs (Measures A-D)

- **1987**
  - Ad Hoc Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts

- **1991**
  - Amendments and expansion to 7 CBMs (CBM A-G)

- **2006**
  - Electronic format for CBMs

- **2011**
  - Revised reporting forms
  - CBM D ‘active promotion of contacts’ removed
CBM Measures

- **CBM A:**
  - Part 1: research centres and laboratories
  - Part 2: Natl. biological defence R&D programmes

- **CBM B:** Info on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences, that seem to deviate from the normal pattern

- **CBM C:** Encouragement of publication of results and promotion of use of knowledge

- **CBM E:** legislation, regulations and other measures

- **CBM F:** past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes

- **CBM G:** vaccine production facilities
CBM related Challenges

Challenges
- Submission rate is low
- No follow-up / analysis of CBMs provided
- Technical difficulties by some SPs in completing submissions
- CBMs not translated into all official languages

Potential Solutions
- Consider step-by-step approach
- Look at other returns
- Assistance available (BWC ISU, Art X database, CBM Guide)
BWC Confidence Building Measures

CBM Submission Language

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<th>Language</th>
<th>Count</th>
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CBMs submitted in 2017 for Reporting Year 2016

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<th>CBMA3</th>
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</table>

Key:
ND: nothing to declare; NN: nothing new to declare; D: declaration submitted

CBM Submissions per Month

CBM Accessibility

- Made publicly available: 59%
- Accessible on the restricted website: 41%
CBMs submitted by States Parties in the Pacific Region

- Australia: 27
- New Zealand: 29
- Palau: 0
- Solomon Islands: 0
- Vanuatu: 0
- Fiji: 4
- Tonga: 0
- Cook Islands: 0
- Nauru: 0

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
Role of the ISU

• Send reminder notice to SPs on 15 Jan
• Receive submissions and place them on the website (circulate hardcopy)
• Answer queries and provide guidance on completing CBMs
• Assist SPs with any activities, workshops, etc. to promote or discuss CBMs
• Provide basic statistical data on participation in the CBMs in its annual report
• Continue development of CBM electronic facility
Conclusions

• Obligations under the BWC limited compared with other similar instruments

• Costs for joining the BWC minimal

• Importance of establishing a National Contact Point to facilitate coordination at the national level

• Intl and Regional support available to facilitate domestic implementation
For more information ...

www.unog.ch/bwc

Or contact:

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