LAUNCH EVENT
EU Council Decision 2019/97
in support of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

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Council Decision 2019/97
- Background -

• The EU adopted Council Decision 2019/97 in support of the BWC on 21 January 2019 in the framework of its Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

• It succeeds Council Decision 2016/51, also in support of the BWC, and implemented by UNODA from February 2016 to February 2019
EU support to BWC since 2006

• Since 2006, the EU has supported the BWC through five instruments, including Joint Actions and Council Decisions amounting to 9.3 million euros

• More than 30 workshops have been held to promote discussion on topics such as BWC universalisation, science and technology, Confidence-Building Measures and capacity-building at national and regional levels

• More than 30 countries, both States parties and not parties to the BWC have received national implementation assistance

• Since 2006, 27 states have joined the Convention, with the BWC membership now reaching 182

• The CBM guide was developed and translated into all six UN languages
Council Decision 2019/97
-Projects at a glance-

1. Promoting universal adherence to the BWC
2. Developing national capacity to implement BWC
3. Fostering biosecurity networks in the Global South
4. Supporting the Ninth BWC Review Conference
5. Preparedness to prevent and respond to a biothreat
6. Developing awareness-raising and engagement tools
Project 1: Universalisation

**Project Purpose**
Promoting universal adherence to the BWC by encouraging States not party to better understand the benefits of joining the BWC

**Activities**
Follow-up outreach will continue to support universalization activities conducted under EU Council Decision 2016/51

- Four in-country universalization activities (call for expressions of interest has been issued)
- Two regional workshops for BWC States not party (for the Pacific and Africa)
Project 2: Capacity Development for BWC implementation

**Project Purpose**
Enhancing the national capacity of States Parties to implement the BWC through the European Union BWC Extended Assistance Programmes

**Activities**
- Call for submission of applications under Extended Assistance Programmes launched (deadline for submission of applications: 3 May 2019)
- Updating of EU roster of experts
- Up to five States Parties to be selected and to receive assistance in areas of need at the national level
- Three regional Peer Review Exercises that will build upon the exercises conducted by France in 2013, the Benelux countries in 2015, Germany in 2016, Morocco in 2017 and Georgia in 2018
Extended Assistance Programmes

- Expected Outcomes -

- Adoption of appropriate legislative and administrative measures to implement BWC
- Better coordination and networking among all stakeholders involved in BWC process
- Increased technical competence and understanding of the BWC from scientists in beneficiary countries
- Effective implementation and enforcement to prevent violations of the BWC and to impose sanctions in case of breaches
- Creation or enhancement of national mechanisms to provide the required information under the BWC, including CBMs
EAP Beneficiaries under EU Council Decision 2016/51

The beneficiaries included:

✔ States Parties which had recently joined the BWC (Côte d’Ivoire and Nepal, both in 2016)

✔ States Parties at low levels of national BWC implementation (Malawi and Sierra Leone)

✔ States Parties with urgent security concerns (Iraq, Lebanon)

✔ States Parties at a higher level of national implementation with focused requests and effective use of previous support (Cameroon, Colombia, Malaysia)
Beneficiary countries

- Cameroon
- Colombia
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Nepal
- Sierra Leone
- Malawi
Legislative Assistance Activities
EU Council Decision 2016/51

Sierra Leone (September 2017)

Côte d’Ivoire (November 2017)

Cameroon (March 2018)

Nepal (January 2019)

Côte d’Ivoire (November 2017)

Cameroon (March 2018)

Nepal (January 2019)

Lebanon (January 2019)

Malawi (March 2018)
Biosecurity Training Courses
EU Council Decision 2016/51

Malaysia
(Kuala Lumpur, April/July 2018)

Iraq
(Jordan, September 2018)

Lebanon
(Beirut, November 2018)
Project 3: Fostering Biosecurity Networks in the Global South

**Project Purpose**
Providing capacity-development opportunities for young policymakers, scientists, and academics from the Global South engaged in BWC-related fields.

**Activities**
- Up to 20 young professionals will be sponsored. Particular emphasis will be placed on the participation of young female professionals.
- First Global South Youth Seminar (potentially to take place in summer 2019 in Geneva)
- Second Global South Youth Seminar (to be organised between 2020-2021)
Main S&T topics of discussion under EU Council Decision 2016/51

- Institutional coordination mechanisms at the national level
- Public awareness of biosafety and biosecurity topics: sensitisation
- Preparedness and response capacities at national and regional levels
- Lessons learnt from epidemic and pandemic outbreaks
- Developing BWC national architectures/structures
Advances in S&T have moved at an unprecedented pace in the last decade. Science developments that were unthinkable just years ago, such as gene editing and biotechnology advances, are now underway and could have a very significant impact on the BWC.
Main S&T takeaways

While the BWC as a Convention remains relevant to this date, ways of operating within the framework of the Convention must be re-thought by States Parties and old paradigms must be updated. The foundational article of the Convention is robust but there are important gaps in some other articles that must be addressed and updated.
Project 4: Supporting the Ninth BWC Review Conference

Project Purpose
Mobilising BWC States Parties towards active participation in the Ninth Review Conference by offering opportunities to reflect on and discuss key topics

Activities
EU Sponsorship Programme for BWC Meetings in Geneva (MXs and MSPs in 2019-2020 and PrepCon and RevCon in 2021)

- Regional Workshop in preparation for the BWC RevCon for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Regional Workshop in preparation for the BWC RevCon for Asia
- Regional Workshop in preparation for the BWC RevCon for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Regional Workshop in preparation for the BWC RevCon for Africa
Project 5: Preparedness to prevent and respond to a biothreat

**Project Purpose**
Enhancing the capacity of States Parties to prevent and respond to a bio-attack through the provision of assistance and protection training.

**Activities**
Planning Workshop for National Preparedness Programmes (Geneva, fourth quarter 2019)

✓ Four National Preparedness Programmes to prevent and respond to a deliberate bio-incident (potentially for a relevant country from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from southern Asia, one from southeast Asia and one from Africa)
Project 6: Enabling tools for outreach, education and engagement

**Project Purpose**

Producing concrete and practical tools, materials and approaches to enable the activities described in the other projects of this Decision

**Activities**

- Ad hoc support tools to implement the rest of the projects under this Council Decision can be developed through this project

- Finalising the BWC National Implementation Guide

- Developing informational videoclips on universalization, national implementation and other relevant aspects of the BWC

- Updating existing BWC brochure and translating it into the six official UN languages
For more information...

[Link to website: www.unog.ch/bwc]

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