

# **Eighth Review Conference 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**

15 June 2016

Original: English

**Preparatory Committee**

**Geneva, 26-27 April and 8-12 August 2016**

Item 7 of the agenda

**Comprehensive consideration of all provisions of the Convention**

## **Status of universalization of the Convention**

### **Background information document submitted by the Implementation Support Unit**

#### *Summary*

The Preparatory Committee decided to request the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to prepare a background information document on the status of universalization of the Convention (see BWC/CONF.VIII/PC/2, paragraph 25). The ISU has duly compiled this document which describes the current status of universalization of the Convention and activities undertaken from 2012 until 2016 to promote universalization. It also includes information from States Parties and other organizations, where that information has been provided to the President-Designate or the ISU. The Convention currently has 174 States Parties, with 8 signatories and 14 states having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 22 States are therefore not party to the Convention.

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Final Document of the Seventh Review Conference, in the Decisions and Recommendations section, contained the following text:

“27. The Conference notes that although the Convention is a cornerstone of international security, and despite the efforts of the States Parties and the Chairs of the meetings of States Parties with the administrative support of the ISU since the Sixth Review Conference, with only 165 States Parties, membership of the Convention still falls behind other major multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. The Conference agrees that a further concerted effort by States Parties is needed to persuade states not party to join the Convention.

28. The Conference therefore requests States Parties to:

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- (a) promote universalization of the Convention through bilateral contacts with states not party;
- (b) promote universalization of the Convention through regional and multilateral fora and activities;
- (c) report, as appropriate, on their activities at annual meetings of States Parties;
- (d) provide, as appropriate, the ISU with relevant information on activities related to the promotion of universalization of the Convention.

29. The Conference decides that the Chairs of meetings of States Parties shall coordinate universalization activities, address states not party to the Convention, provide an annual report on universalization activities at meetings of States Parties, and provide a progress report to the Eighth Review Conference. Bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the States Parties on the implementation of this decision, the Conference tasks the Implementation Support Unit to:

- (a) provide administrative support to the Chairs of meetings of States Parties in the implementation of this decision;
- (b) consolidate and make available information on progress made by states not party towards ratification or accession.

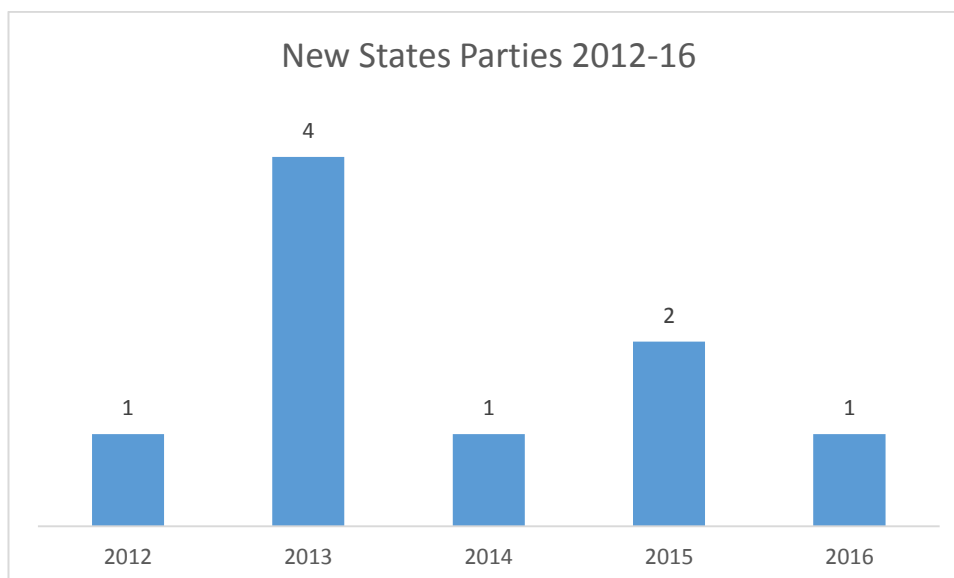
30. The Conference encourages States Parties to give more attention to states in which the ratification or accession process have started or are well advanced, and to those states waiting for further information or assistance or that have other priorities, as described in the annual reports on universalization.”

2. The Seventh Review Conference also reiterated “the high importance of universalization, in particular by affirming the particular importance of the ratification of the Convention by signatory states and accession to the Convention by those which have not signed the Convention, without delay.”<sup>1</sup>

3. Since the Seventh Review Conference, nine States have joined the Convention, increasing the total number of States Parties from 165 to 174, (a full list of States Parties is contained in Annex I). A further eight States have signed but not ratified the Convention (Annex II contains a list of Signatory States) and 14 States have neither signed nor ratified the Convention (contained in Annex III). This document describes the progress made since the Seventh Review Conference and provides information made available to the ISU on the status of ratification or accession in each of the remaining 22 States yet to join the Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> BWC/CONF.VII/7, Part II, paragraph 70.



## II. Developments in Africa

4. With 13 States yet to join the Convention (Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan and United Republic of Tanzania), Africa is the region with the highest number of States not yet party to the Convention. It has therefore been a priority region for activities by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties, as it has and continues to be for the ISU.

5. In 2015, the ISU strengthened its cooperation with the African Union (AU). On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention in March 2015, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, called on AU Member States “that have not yet done so to ratify and accede to the Convention without further delay.”<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, from 29 to 30 October 2015, the Defense and Security Division of the AU Commission and the ISU co-organized a meeting on “Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa”. The meeting was attended by representatives from 21 African States, including seven that are not yet party to the Convention. Moreover, at the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Addis Ababa from 6 to 7 April 2016, the ISU gave a presentation on the benefits of joining the Convention and practical measures for enhancing national implementation and conducted a number of bilateral meetings with representatives from African states that have not joined the Convention.

### Angola

6. The Angolan parliament approved the country’s accession to the Convention in April 2015. On 16 September 2015, Angola acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The instrument of accession to the CWC had been approved by Parliament at the

<sup>2</sup> African Union, press release, 26 March 2015, “The African Union calls for the universalization and full implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention”, available at <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/auc.com.40th.anniv.conv.bio.-26.03.2015.pdf>

same time as the instrument of accession to the Convention. Angola's accession to the Convention could therefore be imminent. Senior Angolan officials have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. Most recently, on 6 April 2016 the President-Designate of the Eighth Review Conference met with Mr. Apolinário Jorge Correia, Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations in Geneva who reported that Angola is close to joining the Convention, and hopes to complete the process within the coming months. In April 2013, the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a workshop on "Universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention". The workshop was the result of a collaboration between the United Kingdom, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) and the ISU.

### **Cameroon**

7. On 18 January 2013, Cameroon deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention in Washington, DC, thus becoming the 167<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention.

### **Chad**

8. In March 2012, documents prepared by VERTIC were delivered to senior officials in Chad by the United States Embassy. In September 2012, a member of the ISU met with a representative of Chad at the first round table meeting of the CBRN Centres of Excellence North Africa and Sahel Region in Algiers, Algeria, and informed Chad about the Convention. Senior officials from Chad have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. A representative of Chad participated in the workshop on the "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa" co-organized by the African Union and the ISU in October 2015.

### **Central African Republic**

9. The Central African Republic has signed but not ratified the Convention. Senior officials from the Central African Republic have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 15 June 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Léopold Ismael Samba, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage the Central African Republic to join the Convention. The Chair sought further information on its ratification status, as no information had been reported since 2011. The Permanent Representative confirmed that the Chairman's demarche would be reported and that all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU would be transferred to the capital.

### **Comoros**

10. Information reported in October 2007 indicated that a draft instrument of accession was awaiting signature by the President of Comoros. In 2011, VERTIC provided assistance regarding accession and reported that the United States Embassy delivered VERTIC's materials to senior government officials of Comoros. The British Ambassador in Mauritius (accredited to Comoros) raised accession with the Comoros Foreign Minister in February 2013. Senior officials from Comoros have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On

23 April 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Sultan Chouzour, Permanent Representative in Geneva, and sought further information on the status of accession. The Permanent Representative confirmed that the Chairman's demarche would be reported to capital and that the documentation provided by the ISU would also be transferred.

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

11. On 23 March 2016, Cote d'Ivoire deposited its instrument of ratification to the Convention in Moscow and in London on 26 April 2016, thus becoming the 174<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention.

### **Djibouti**

12. In March 2012, the United States Embassy delivered documents prepared by VERTIC to senior government officials in Djibouti. The United States of America also reported having demarched Djibouti in 2013. Senior officials from Djibouti have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 21 April 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Mohamed Siad Doualeh, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Djibouti's accession. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. Djibouti participated in a workshop in Nairobi in September 2015 for Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States on implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and other international instruments. ISU staff also engaged with a representative from Djibouti in Addis Ababa in April 2016 on the margins of the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa and discussed a number of practical measures with respect to the enhanced implementation of the Convention in Djibouti.

### **Egypt**

13. Egypt has signed but not ratified the Convention. At an informal briefing in New York on 24 October 2013, Egypt outlined its initiative in support of a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East and expressed interest in exploring the possible role of the Convention in that process. Senior officials have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 28 April 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Amr Ramadan, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Egypt's ratification. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. He reemphasized that ratification by Egypt is linked to other political considerations. Egypt participated in the workshop on "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa" co-organized by the African Union and the ISU in October 2015.

### **Eritrea**

14. In January 2012, VERTIC provided a survey of Eritrea's Convention-related legislation and a pack containing relevant documentation, including sources of assistance. Senior officials from Eritrea have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. Eritrea

participated in a workshop in Nairobi in September 2015 for Intergovernmental Authority on Development Member States on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and other international instruments. The ISU participated and encouraged Eritrea to join the Convention.

## **Guinea**

15. Senior officials from Guinea have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 25 June 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Aly Diané, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Guinea to join it. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. The General Inspector of Health of Guinea attended the 2015 Meeting of Experts and discussed technical, legal and financial aspects of accession. The official informed the ISU he had been assigned directly by the Head of State of Guinea to participate in the Meeting of Experts, establish contact with the Depositary Governments and the ISU and report his conclusions and recommendations on the Convention. He believed that joining the Convention was important in light of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and would recommend that the Head of State take action without further delay.

## **Liberia**

16. Liberia has signed but not ratified the Convention. VERTIC prepared a survey of Liberia's Convention-related legislation and a pack containing relevant documentation, including sources of assistance. The United States Embassy delivered the documents to senior government officials in July 2012. Senior officials from Liberia have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 20 October 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Paul Wolokollie Tate, Counsellor and Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Liberia to ratify it. The representative of Liberia confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU.

## **Malawi**

17. On 2 April 2015, Malawi deposited its instrument of ratification to the Convention in Washington, DC, thus becoming the 170<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention. ISU staff also engaged with a representative from Malawi in Addis Ababa in April 2016 on the margins of the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Africa and discussed a number of practical measures with respect to the enhanced implementation of the BWC in Malawi.

## **Mauritania**

18. On 28 January 2015, Mauritania deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention in London, thus becoming the 172<sup>nd</sup> State Party to the Convention.

## **Namibia**

19. The United Kingdom, the United States of America and Germany delivered a demarche on the Convention to the Namibian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 2013. Senior officials from Namibia have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 27 April 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Ms. Sabine Böhlke-Möller, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Namibia's accession. The Permanent Representative confirmed that she would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU.

## **Somalia**

20. Somalia has signed but not ratified the Convention. Senior officials from Somalia have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties. Somalia participated in the Workshop for Intergovernmental Authority on Development States on enhancing implementation of resolution 1540 and other non-proliferation instruments, in which the ISU made several presentations on the Convention and the benefits of joining. Somalia also participated in April 2016 in the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa in which the ISU informed about practical steps and benefits of joining the Convention.

## **South Sudan**

21. Since becoming an independent state and joining the United Nations in 2011, South Sudan has not yet indicated its intentions with respect to succeeding or acceding to the Convention. Sudan, of which South Sudan was formerly a part, is a State Party to the Convention. Senior officials from South Sudan have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. On 28 April 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Alison Monani Magaya, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage South Sudan to join. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. South Sudan participated in a workshop in Nairobi in September 2015 for Intergovernmental Authority on Development Member States on implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and other international instruments. In addition, South Sudan also participated in the workshop on "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa" co-organized by the African Union and the ISU in October 2015.

## **United Republic of Tanzania**

22. The United Republic of Tanzania has signed but not ratified the Convention. Senior officials from the United Republic of Tanzania have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties. On 10 July 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage the United Republic of Tanzania to ratify it. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. In addition, a representative of the United Republic of Tanzania

participated in the workshop on “Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa” co-organized by the African Union and the ISU in October 2015. On 3 April 2016, remarks by the President-Designate were distributed at a regional roundtable organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action in Dar-es-Salaam.<sup>3</sup> In his remarks, the President-Designate encouraged the United Republic of Tanzania and neighbouring States to join the Convention.

### **III. Developments in Asia and the Pacific**

23. Asia, particularly the Middle East and the Pacific, is another area of high priority for universalization activities. In the Middle East, universalization of the Convention is linked to wider political issues within the sub-region. In the Pacific, where five States have yet to join the Convention (Kiribati, Micronesia, Niue, Samoa and Tuvalu), the main issue is one of resources.

#### **Israel**

24. Senior officials from Israel have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties both in Geneva and in New York. During these engagements, Israeli officials stated that joining the Convention was linked to other regional security considerations.

#### **Kiribati**

25. Senior officials from Kiribati have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties in New York. Most recently, the President-Designate met with Mr. Baraniko Baaro, Deputy Permanent Representative in New York on 2 June 2016, in order to promote the Convention and seek further information. The Deputy Permanent Representative said that climate change is the highest priority for Kiribati and that accession to treaties with onerous reporting obligations had been postponed. However, he undertook to recommend accession to the Convention to his capital. The ISU provided information on financial and reporting obligations and on the benefits of joining the Convention.

#### **Marshall Islands**

26. On 15 November 2012, the Marshall Islands deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention in Washington, DC, thus becoming the 166<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention.

#### **Micronesia**

27. Senior officials from Micronesia have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties in New York. Most recently, the President-Designate met with Ms. Jane J. Chigiyal, Permanent Representative in New York on 2 June 2016, in order to promote the Convention and seek further information regarding

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<sup>3</sup> See

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/2022D74F95BC3D11C1257F8E0046EC60/\\$file/Statement+Chairman+Regional+Workshop+Dar+es+Salaam+2-3+April.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/2022D74F95BC3D11C1257F8E0046EC60/$file/Statement+Chairman+Regional+Workshop+Dar+es+Salaam+2-3+April.pdf)



Micronesia's accession status. The Permanent Representative said that a recommendation to accede to the Convention was submitted last year, but that a thorough analysis of the obligations arising from the Convention, and other treaties, was being undertaken to ensure effective implementation. She said that the Convention could be submitted to the legislature at its next session in September. The Permanent Representative also said that Micronesia will likely require assistance with the implementation of the Convention. The ISU provided information on financial and reporting obligations and on the benefits of joining the Convention.

## **Myanmar**

28. On 1 December 2014, Myanmar deposited its instrument of ratification in London, Moscow and Washington, DC, thus becoming the 171<sup>st</sup> State Party to the Convention.

## **Nauru**

29. On 5 March 2013, Nauru deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention in Washington, DC, thus becoming the 168<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention.

## **Nepal**

30. Nepal has signed but not ratified the Convention. Senior officials from Nepal have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties in Geneva. Nepal received an assistance programme under the European Union funded Action in support of the Convention and assistance activities were carried out in Kathmandu from January to August 2014. A time line for ratification by the end of 2015 was agreed as part of the action plan. However, the severe earthquake in April 2015, and the political transition in Nepal have slowed down the process. In early 2016, the Cabinet of Nepal referred the Convention to the Constituent Assembly. On 27 February 2016, remarks by the President-Designate encouraging Nepal to ratify the Convention were distributed at a roundtable in Kathmandu organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action.<sup>4</sup> On 28 April 2016, the President-Designate met with Mr. Deepak Dhital, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations in Geneva who reported that Nepal is close to joining the Convention, and that the process should be completed within the coming months.

## **Niue**

31. In 2012, VERTIC reported that they would be providing a survey of Niue's Convention-related legislation and a pack containing a model instrument of accession, a letter explaining the benefits of joining the Convention and a letter detailing VERTIC's legislative assistance offer for accession and the drafting of national implementing legislation. Niue does not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva or in New York.

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<sup>4</sup> See

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/2F9E0413F7D6C697C1257F6800346B89/\\$file/Statement+Amb+Molnar+Round+Table+Meeting+Katmandu+270216+FINAL.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/2F9E0413F7D6C697C1257F6800346B89/$file/Statement+Amb+Molnar+Round+Table+Meeting+Katmandu+270216+FINAL.pdf)

## **Samoa**

32. Senior officials from Samoa have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties during visits to New York. Most recently, the President-Designate met with Ms. Francella Strickland-Simonet, Deputy Permanent Representative, in New York on 2 June 2016, in order to promote the Convention and seek further information regarding Samoa's accession status. The Deputy Permanent Representative said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recommended accession to the Convention and that the Eighth Review Conference provided a useful target for the completion of the process. The ISU provided information on financial and reporting obligations and on the benefits of joining the Convention.

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

33. The Syrian Arab Republic has signed but not ratified the Convention. Ratification of the Convention has traditionally been linked to other regional security considerations. The accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2013 may have opened an opportunity for the Convention. On 14 April 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Hussam Edin Aala, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage the Syrian Arab Republic to ratify. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. He reemphasized that ratification is linked to other political considerations.

## **Tuvalu**

34. Senior officials from Tuvalu have been engaged throughout the intersessional period by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties in New York. Most recently, the President-Designate met with Mr. Aunese Makoi Simati, Permanent Representative in New York on 2 June 2016, in order to promote the Convention and seek further information regarding Tuvalu's accession status. The Permanent Representative said that the biggest concern was regarding the reporting obligations under the Convention. The ISU clarified these obligations and also provided information on financial obligations and on the benefits of joining the Convention.

# **IV. Developments in Europe**

## **Andorra**

35. On 2 March 2015, Andorra deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention in Washington, DC, thus becoming the 173<sup>rd</sup> State Party to the Convention and achieving the universalization of the Convention in Europe.

# **V. Developments in Latin America and the Caribbean**

## **Guyana**

36. On 26 March 2013, Guyana deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention in Washington, DC, thus becoming the 169<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention.

## Haiti

37. Haiti has signed but not ratified the Convention. On 13 April 2015, the Chairman had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Pierre André Dunbar, Permanent Representative in Geneva, to promote the Convention and to encourage Haiti to ratify the Convention. The Permanent Representative confirmed that he would report the Chairman's demarche and transfer to the capital all the relevant documentation provided by the ISU. He added that Haiti is currently in a transitional political situation.

## VI. Activities by the Chairs of the Meetings of States Parties

38. On 23 October 2012, the Chairman wrote to the foreign ministers of States not party to the Convention to encourage them to join and requesting information on current progress regarding accession to or ratification of the Convention.

39. In the course of Hungary's chairmanship of the Convention in 2013, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary took the opportunity of various meetings to hand over letters urging accession to or ratification of the Convention to ministerial colleagues from Angola, Myanmar, Namibia, Somalia and South Sudan.

40. On 17 November 2014, a letter from the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs was sent to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the following States not party to the Convention: Chad, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Liberia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Micronesia, Namibia, Nepal, Samoa, South Sudan, Tuvalu, and Tanzania. The letter raised awareness of the Convention and encouraged these States to join the Convention.

41. On 16 March 2015, a letter from the Chairman was sent to all Permanent Representatives of States not party and Signatory States to the Convention based in Geneva to encourage them to join the Convention as well as to request for an opportunity to brief them.

42. Most recently, in May 2016 Péter Szijjártó, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency of the Eighth Review Conference, signed a ministerial letter to his counterparts in all Signatories and States not party as part of the President-Designate's efforts to promote universalization of the Convention.

### Activities in New York

43. On 22 October 2012, on the margin of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, on behalf of the Chairman, one of the Vice-Chairmen hosted a meeting to raise awareness about the Convention among States not party. Representatives of the three Depositary Governments, Algeria, Poland, Australia and UNODA assisted with the meeting. Representatives of Andorra, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Myanmar and South Sudan attended the meeting.

44. On 20 March and 24 October 2013, the Chairman hosted informal briefings on the Convention at United Nations Headquarters in New York, together with representatives of the Depositary Governments. Representatives from Angola, Egypt, Eritrea, Israel, Malawi, Myanmar, South Sudan and Tanzania attended the briefings.

45. On 6 May 2014, the Chairman hosted an informal briefing on the Convention in New York, together with representatives of the Depositary Governments. Representatives from Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Myanmar and Nepal attended the briefing. In October 2014, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York,

the Chairman held bilateral meetings with the following States not party to the Convention: Andorra, Comoros, Eritrea, Haiti, Nepal and Tanzania.

46. On 6 and 7 October 2015 in New York, the Chairman held bilateral meetings with representatives of the following States not party to the Convention: Angola, Kiribati, Micronesia, Samoa and Tuvalu.

47. On 2 June 2016 in New York, the President-Designate held bilateral meetings with representatives of the following States not party to the Convention: Kiribati, Micronesia, Samoa and Tuvalu.

#### **Activities in Geneva**

48. During the course of 2015, the Chairman held bilateral meetings in Geneva with representatives of the following States not party to the Convention: Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Namibia, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and United Republic of Tanzania.

49. So far during 2016, the President-Designate has had bilateral meetings in Geneva with the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Nepal and further meetings are scheduled for later in June 2016.

## **VII. Cooperation with other actors**

50. Universalization efforts have also been strengthened by the activities of States Parties and other actors. The Depositary States (the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) have been particularly active in encouraging States not party to join the Convention. In addition, individual States Parties and groups of States Parties (for example the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction) have also informed the ISU of activities undertaken to encourage States not party to join the Convention.

51. As mentioned above in paragraph 5, the ISU has strengthened its relationship with the African Union, particularly with the organization of the workshop on "Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa" in October 2015 and participation in the African Union Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa. Furthermore, under the recently adopted Council Decision CFSP/2016/51 of the European Union (EU), the EU will support a range of activities to encourage the universalization of the Convention, including in-country visits to States not party, a regional stakeholders workshop in Africa and sponsorship for key individuals to attend meetings of the Convention. States Parties and the ISU have also worked closely with other entities. For example, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) has provided information on joining the Convention to several States not party and cooperated in the organization of the workshop in Angola in 2013 (see paragraph 6 above).<sup>5</sup> At the end of 2015, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) launched a global parliamentary campaign to promote universalization and implementation of the Convention. The campaign was launched at a "Global Parliamentary Forum to Promote Universality and National Implementation of the BWC" in San Salvador, El Salvador from 30 November to 1 December 2015.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> For more information, see <http://www.vertic.org/pages/homepage/programmes/national-implementation-measures/biological-weapons-and-materials/universality.php>

<sup>6</sup> For more information, see <http://www.pgaction.org/campaigns/bwc.html>

## VIII. Conclusions

52. The years since the Seventh Review Conference have witnessed a slow increase in the number of States Parties to the Convention. However, with only 174 States Parties, the Convention still lags some way behind both the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, both with over 190 States Parties. While some States have expressed political reasons for not joining the Convention at the current time, others have stated their political support for the objectives of the Convention, but refer to resource constraints and lack of capacity as key limiting factors. Concerns over financial and reporting obligations under the Convention are also commonly cited.

53. The promotion of universalization is an ongoing task which requires long-running commitment and resources and continuous engagement with States not party. Developments in such States, for example natural disasters, political upheavals and elections can significantly delay or even completely halt ratification or accession processes. Positive results can be achieved through cooperation among States Parties, particularly through bilateral contacts with States not party and through regional and multilateral fora and activities. Eventually, as more States join the Convention, the experience in similar treaties is that a more targeted approach will be needed, tailored to specific national requirements.

## Annex I

[English only]

### **List of States Parties to the Convention (As at 30 May 2016)**

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Andorra
5. Antigua and Barbuda
6. Argentina
7. Armenia
8. Australia
9. Austria
10. Azerbaijan
11. Bahamas
12. Bahrain
13. Bangladesh
14. Barbados
15. Belarus
16. Belgium
17. Belize
18. Benin
19. Bhutan
20. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
21. Bosnia-Herzegovina
22. Botswana
23. Brazil
24. Brunei Darussalam
25. Bulgaria
26. Burkina Faso
27. Burundi
28. Cambodia
29. Cameroon
30. Canada

31. Cape Verde
32. Chile
33. China
34. Colombia
35. Congo
36. Cook Islands
37. Costa Rica
38. Côte d'Ivoire
39. Croatia
40. Cuba
41. Cyprus
42. Czech Republic
43. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
44. Democratic Republic of the Congo
45. Denmark
46. Dominica
47. Dominican Republic
48. Ecuador
49. El Salvador
50. Equatorial Guinea
51. Estonia
52. Ethiopia
53. Fiji
54. Finland
55. France
56. Gabon
57. Gambia
58. Georgia
59. Germany
60. Ghana
61. Greece
62. Grenada
63. Guatemala
64. Guinea-Bissau
65. Guyana
66. Holy See

67. Honduras
68. Hungary
69. Iceland
70. India
71. Indonesia
72. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
73. Iraq
74. Ireland
75. Italy
76. Jamaica
77. Japan
78. Jordan
79. Kazakhstan
80. Kenya
81. Kuwait
82. Kyrgyzstan
83. Lao People's Democratic Republic
84. Latvia
85. Lebanon
86. Lesotho
87. Libya
88. Liechtenstein
89. Lithuania
90. Luxembourg
91. Madagascar
92. Malawi
93. Malaysia
94. Maldives
95. Mali
96. Malta
97. Marshall Islands
98. Mauritania
99. Mauritius
100. Mexico
101. Monaco
102. Mongolia



103. Montenegro
104. Morocco
105. Mozambique
106. Myanmar
107. Nauru
108. Netherlands
109. New Zealand
110. Nicaragua
111. Niger
112. Nigeria
113. Norway
114. Oman
115. Pakistan
116. Palau
117. Panama
118. Papua New Guinea
119. Paraguay
120. Peru
121. Philippines
122. Poland
123. Portugal
124. Qatar
125. Republic of Korea
126. Republic of Moldova
127. Romania
128. Russian Federation
129. Rwanda
130. Saint Kitts and Nevis
131. Saint Lucia
132. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
133. San Marino
134. Sao Tome and Principe
135. Saudi Arabia
136. Senegal
137. Serbia
138. Seychelles

139. Sierra Leone
140. Singapore
141. Slovakia
142. Slovenia
143. Solomon Islands
144. South Africa
145. Spain
146. Sri Lanka
147. Sudan
148. Suriname
149. Swaziland
150. Sweden
151. Switzerland
152. Tajikistan
153. Thailand
154. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
155. Timor Leste
156. Togo
157. Tonga
158. Trinidad and Tobago
159. Tunisia
160. Turkey
161. Turkmenistan
162. Uganda
163. Ukraine
164. United Arab Emirates
165. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
166. United States of America
167. Uruguay
168. Uzbekistan
169. Vanuatu
170. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
171. Viet Nam
172. Yemen
173. Zambia
174. Zimbabwe

## **Annex II**

**[English Only]**

### **List of Signatory States to the Convention (As at 30 May 2016)**

1. Central African Republic
2. Egypt
3. Haiti
4. Liberia
5. Nepal
6. Somalia
7. Syrian Arab Republic
8. United Republic of Tanzania

## Annex III

[English Only]

### **List of States not party to the Convention (As at 30 May 2016)**

1. Angola
  2. Chad
  3. Comoros
  4. Djibouti
  5. Eritrea
  6. Guinea
  7. Israel
  8. Kiribati
  9. Micronesia
  10. Namibia
  11. Niue
  12. Samoa
  13. South Sudan
  14. Tuvalu
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