

# 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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Progress with universalization of the Convention

## Report on universalization activities<sup>1</sup>

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), and the Eighth Review Conference decided to continue this practice (BWC/CONF.VIII/4, Part III, paragraph 8). The Chairman of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties has therefore compiled this document which outlines the results to date of the activities to promote universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention undertaken by the Chairman and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in 2018. 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 182 States Parties (listed in the Annex), with five signatories and 10 States having neither signed nor ratified. A total of 15 States are therefore not party to the Convention.

## I. Introduction

1. Since the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, three States have joined the Biological Weapons Convention. The State of Palestine and Niue both acceded to the Convention, on 9 January 2018 and 14 June 2018 respectively, while the Central African Republic ratified the Convention on 25 September 2018, becoming the 182<sup>nd</sup> State Party (see Annex). A further five States have signed but not ratified the Convention and 10 States have neither signed nor ratified the Convention. This report outlines information available about these 15 States.

## II. Activities to promote universalization

2. The following universalization activities have been undertaken and reported to the Chairman or the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in 2018, or are planned to take place during 2018:

<sup>1</sup> This report was finalized on 8 October 2018. An addendum will be prepared in order to reflect any additional universalization activities that take place from 8 October until the start of the 2018 MSP.



(a) From January to September, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) held bilateral meetings and provided technical, legal and procedural advice pertaining to the Convention to the PGA National Group in the National Assembly of the Central African Republic, facilitating the subsequent approval of the Convention by the National Assembly in July and ratification by the Central African Republic on 25 September;

(b) In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, from 21 to 23 March, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the ISU organized a workshop to promote the universalization of the Convention, under EU Council Decision 2016/51/CFSP in support of the Convention. ISU and UNODA staff members met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Antonio Rodrigue and the Minister of Defence, Mr. Herve Denis, both of whom expressed support for ratification of the Convention by Haiti;<sup>2</sup>

(c) On 30 May, the Chairman and the Chief of the ISU met with the Permanent Representative of Tanzania in Geneva in order to encourage Tanzania to join the Convention and to seek further information regarding its ratification process;

(d) On 17 to 18 September, PGA organized a “Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”, in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Participants included senior parliamentarians from eight States then not party to the Convention – Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan and Tanzania;<sup>3</sup>

(e) From 3 to 4 October, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and UNODA co-organized a universalization workshop for States not party to the Convention in the IGAD region under European Union Council Decision 2016/51/CFSP. Representatives from three States not party attended the workshop (Djibouti, Somalia and South Sudan), as well as representatives from three regional States Parties (Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan), the European Union, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) and the Russian Federation;

(f) In October, a letter from the Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties was sent to all Permanent Representatives in Geneva and in New York of Signatory States and States not party to encourage them to join the Convention;

(g) In October, on the margins of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties is planning to hold a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of States not party to the Convention;<sup>4</sup>

(h) From 12 to 13 December, a regional workshop on universalization, hosted by Fiji, will take place in Nadi. The workshop will be organized by the ISU, with financial support from the Permanent Mission of Australia in Geneva. With three States in the Pacific region not party to the Convention (Kiribati, Micronesia, and Tuvalu), the main objective of the regional workshop will be to raise their awareness of the Convention and to encourage the efforts of these States towards accession. It will build upon the momentum created by the regional workshop hosted by Fiji in July 2017 which was supported by the European Union and which led to the accession of Niue and Samoa to the Convention;

(i) The African Union and UNODA will co-organize a universalisation workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 11 to 12 December, under European Union Council Decision 2016/51/CFSP. The workshop is intended for those States not party in Africa which did not attend the workshop mentioned in sub-paragraph 2(e) above (Chad, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Namibia and Tanzania);

(j) The ISU remained in close and regular contact with the African Union, the European Union, IGAD, PGA, the Committee established pursuant to United Nations

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.un.org/disarmament/update/promoting-the-ratification-of-the-biological-weapons-convention-in-haiti/> for more information.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.pgaction.org/news/regional-africa-parliamentary-workshop-btwc-1540.html> for more information.

<sup>4</sup> Details of the bilateral meetings will be provided in the addendum of the report.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) to coordinate mutual universalization efforts;

(k) Throughout the year, the ISU remained in regular contact with Signatory States and States not party that have expressed an interest in the Convention, sought assistance to join, or requested additional information; and

(l) The ISU has also been coordinating with the Depositary Governments on various universalization-related matters.

### III. Overview of current status

3. Activities conducted 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, Signatory States and States not party, as well as interested organizations and entities.

4. The two tables below show Signatory States and States not party by geographical region and by progress towards ratification or accession respectively:

**Table 1**

<i>Geographical region</i>	<i>States not party and Signatories* to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Asia and Pacific	Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Tuvalu	3
Latin America and Caribbean	Haiti*	1
Middle East	Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	2
Africa	Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt*, Eritrea, Namibia, Somalia*, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania*	9

**Table 2**

<i>Situation</i>	<i>States not party and Signatories* to the Convention</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Haiti, United Republic of Tanzania*	2
Accession or ratification process started	Chad, Djibouti, Namibia	3
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Comoros, Eritrea, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Somalia*, South Sudan, Tuvalu	7
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Israel, Syrian Arab Republic*	3

### IV. Signatories

#### Egypt

5. On 11 July in Geneva, Switzerland, the Chief of the ISU gave a presentation on the Convention to participants at a course on “Building Capacities on Arms Control in the Middle

East and North Africa (MENA) Region”, organized by the Geneva Center for Security and Policy. The participants included a representative from Egypt. A representative from Egypt will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December.

### **Haiti**

6. From 21 to 23 March, a workshop to promote the universalization of the Convention was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, UNODA and the ISU, under European Union Council Decision 2016/51. High-level bilateral meetings took place on the margins of the workshop, with the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs of Haiti, as well as senior parliamentarians. During these meetings, strong support was expressed for ratification of the Convention. Ratification of the Convention needs to be approved by the National Assembly of Haiti. Haiti participated in the Meetings of Experts in August.

### **Somalia**

7. Somalia took part in the “Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”, organized by PGA in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from 17 to 18 September. On 26 November, a Somalian and Jordanian Parliamentary Workshop will take place in the House of Representatives of Jordan. The workshop aims to promote bio-risk management best practices and universality and implementation of the Convention and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Two representatives from Somalia participated in the universalization workshop that took place in Djibouti City from 3 to 4 October in cooperation with IGAD.

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

8. No further information has been reported during 2018.

### **United Republic of Tanzania**

9. On 14 May, the Minister of Defence and National Service of Tanzania announced that the Convention would be tabled for parliamentary approval in September. Consequently, on 30 May, the Chairman and the Chief of the ISU met with the Permanent Representative of Tanzania in Geneva, in order to discuss universalization issues, where Tanzania confirmed that its ratification process is well advanced. In August, a representative of Tanzania was sponsored to participate in the Meetings of Experts. During a bilateral meeting with the ISU, the representative of Tanzania requested the ISU’s assistance in the ratification process. The ISU has provided support as requested and is maintaining close contact with Tanzania. Representatives from Tanzania took part in the “Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”, organized by PGA in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from 17 to 18 September. A representative from Tanzania will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December in cooperation with the African Union.

## **V. States neither signed nor ratified**

### **Chad**

10. From September to October, PGA briefed its members and other relevant stakeholders in Chad with respect to the legal requirements and benefits of becoming a State Party to the Convention to facilitate their advocacy efforts to promote accession. A representative from

Chad will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December in cooperation with the African Union.

### **Comoros**

11. From September to October, PGA briefed its members and other relevant stakeholders in Comoros with respect to the legal requirements and benefits of becoming a State Party to the Convention to facilitate their advocacy efforts to promote accession. A representative from Comoros will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December in cooperation with the African Union.

### **Djibouti**

12. From September to October, PGA briefed its members and other relevant stakeholders in Djibouti with respect to the legal requirements and benefits of becoming a State Party to the Convention to facilitate their advocacy efforts to promote accession. Representatives from Djibouti, including the President of the National Assembly, participated in the universalization workshop that took place in Djibouti City from 3 to 4 October in cooperation with IGAD. During the meeting, strong support was expressed for accession to the Convention.

### **Eritrea**

13. A representative from Eritrea will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December in cooperation with the African Union.

### **Israel**

14. No further information has been reported during 2018.

### **Kiribati**

15. A representative from Kiribati will be invited to attend the universalization workshop for the Pacific Region that will take place in Nadi, Fiji, from 12 to 13 December.

### **Micronesia (Federated States of)**

16. A representative from Micronesia will be invited to attend the universalization workshop for the Pacific Region that will take place in Nadi, Fiji, from 12 to 13 December.

### **Namibia**

17. Namibia took part in the “Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”, organized by PGA in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 17 to 18 September. At the workshop, a statement on behalf of Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia was delivered, in which she noted the importance of the Convention, stated Namibia’s intention to join the Convention and highlighted that “preparations are underway to join the family of friends who have already signed and ratified this Convention.” A representative from Namibia will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December in cooperation with the African Union.

## **South Sudan**

18. From September to October, PGA briefed its members and other relevant stakeholders in South Sudan with respect to the legal requirements and benefits of becoming a State Party to the Convention to facilitate their advocacy efforts to promote accession. South Sudan took part in the “Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”, organized by PGA in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from 17 to 18 September. Two representatives from South Sudan also participated in the universalization workshop that took place in Djibouti City from 3 to 4 October in cooperation with IGAD. At that meeting, South Sudan requested assistance to facilitate its efforts to accede to the Convention.

## **Tuvalu**

19. A representative of Tuvalu will be invited to attend the universalization workshop for the Pacific Region that will take place in Nadi, Fiji, from 12 to 13 December.

[English only]

## Annex

### List of States Parties to the Convention (as at 8 October 2018)

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

36. Colombia
37. Congo
38. Cook Islands
39. Costa Rica
40. Côte d'Ivoire
41. Croatia
42. Cuba
43. Cyprus
44. Czechia
45. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
46. Democratic Republic of the Congo
47. Denmark
48. Dominica
49. Dominican Republic
50. Ecuador
51. El Salvador
52. Equatorial Guinea
53. Estonia
54. Eswatini
55. Ethiopia
56. Fiji
57. Finland
58. France
59. Gabon
60. Gambia
61. Georgia
62. Germany
63. Ghana
64. Greece
65. Grenada
66. Guatemala
67. Guinea
68. Guinea-Bissau
69. Guyana
70. Holy See
71. Honduras
72. Hungary
73. Iceland
74. India
75. Indonesia



76. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
77. Iraq
78. Ireland
79. Italy
80. Jamaica
81. Japan
82. Jordan
83. Kazakhstan
84. Kenya
85. Kuwait
86. Kyrgyzstan
87. Lao, People's Democratic Republic
88. Latvia
89. Lebanon
90. Lesotho
91. Liberia
92. Libya
93. Liechtenstein
94. Lithuania
95. Luxembourg
96. Madagascar
97. Malawi
98. Malaysia
99. Maldives
100. Mali
101. Malta
102. Marshall Islands
103. Mauritania
104. Mauritius
105. Mexico
106. Monaco
107. Mongolia
108. Montenegro
109. Morocco
110. Mozambique
111. Myanmar
112. Nauru
113. Nepal
114. Netherlands
115. New Zealand

116. Nicaragua
117. Niger
118. Nigeria
119. Niue
120. Norway
121. Oman
122. Pakistan
123. Palau
124. Panama
125. Papua New Guinea
126. Paraguay
127. Peru
128. Philippines
129. Poland
130. Portugal
131. Qatar
132. Republic of Korea
133. Republic of Moldova
134. Romania
135. Russian Federation
136. Rwanda
137. Saint Kitts and Nevis
138. Saint Lucia
139. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
140. Samoa
141. San Marino
142. Sao Tome and Principe
143. Saudi Arabia
144. Senegal
145. Serbia
146. Seychelles
147. Sierra Leone
148. Singapore
149. Slovakia
150. Slovenia
151. Solomon Islands
152. South Africa
153. Spain
154. Sri Lanka
155. State of Palestine

156. Sudan
157. Suriname
158. Sweden
159. Switzerland
160. Tajikistan
161. Thailand
162. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
163. Timor-Leste
164. Togo
165. Tonga
166. Trinidad and Tobago
167. Tunisia
168. Turkey
169. Turkmenistan
170. Uganda
171. Ukraine
172. United Arab Emirates
173. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
174. United States of America
175. Uruguay
176. Uzbekistan
177. Vanuatu
178. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
179. Viet Nam
180. Yemen
181. Zambia
182. Zimbabwe

### **List of signatories to the Convention (as at 8 October 2018)**

1. Egypt
  2. Haiti
  3. Somalia
  4. Syrian Arab Republic
  5. United Republic of Tanzania
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