

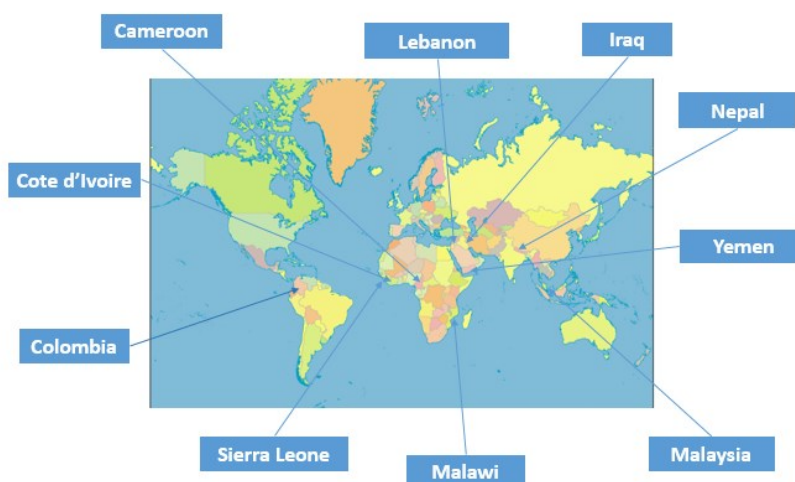
BWC NEWSLETTER

Issue 3/2017

April 2017

Launch of Extended Assistance Programmes under EU Council Decision 2016/51 - As part of the implementation of European Union Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Extended Assistance Programmes (EAP) will be provided in the coming 18 months to the following ten States Parties: Cameroon, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Yemen. Each EAP will run for approximately 12 months, involving participation by EU delegations and the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence in the ten beneficiary countries, and the UN regional disarmament centres.

The programmes supported by the European Union are aimed at developing capacities within States Parties to inter alia adopt the appropriate legislative or administrative measures for BWC implementation, to support effective implementation and enforcement to prevent violations of the BWC and to impose sanctions in cases of breaches, to facilitate better national coordination and networking among all stakeholders involved in implementation, to promote awareness-raising programmes, codes of conduct and standards for biosafety and biosecurity, and to create or enhance national mechanisms for the compilation of the required information for the annual submission of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs). Further information on 'project 3: capacity development for BWC implementation' can be found on the [BWC website](#).



In This Issue

- Latest News for BWC States Parties
- BWC ISU Activities March - April 2017
- Recent Publications on Issues of Relevance to the BWC

Launch of Extended Assistance Programmes under EU Council Decision 2016/51 (continuation from p1)

- On 29 March 2017, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva co-hosted the “Workshop in Support of the Biological Weapons Extended Assistance Programmes” in Geneva.

Held in the offices of the EU Permanent Delegation in Geneva, the workshop brought together just over 40 participants, including experts nominated by European Union Member States and representatives of international organisations and non-governmental organisations. The EU Member States represented at the meeting were Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom. Also in attendance were representatives from Interpol, the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Workshop participants discussed best practices and appropriate preparations to enable them to effectively support the national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) by beneficiary States Parties. Productive discussions about best practices in providing assistance, service providers’ coordination and cooperation, and practical arrangements in preparation of assistance delivery were stimulated by experts’ [presentations](#) on those topics. The workshop report can be found [here](#).



Latest news for BWC States Parties

Fellowship opportunity on synthetic biology and biosecurity - A fellowship opportunity has arisen for emerging leaders who wish to prepare for and contribute to ongoing discussions regarding biosecurity. Specifically, from 13-16 June 2017, in conjunction with the Seventh International Meeting on Synthetic Biology taking place in Singapore (www.sb7.info), fellows will have the opportunity to take part in an expenses-paid programme focused on synthetic biology and biosecurity. The programme will be operated by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security with support from the BioBricks Foundation, SynBioBeta, & the National University of Singapore. Up to 30 emerging leaders from around the world who are interested in the nexus of biosecurity and synthetic biology will be sponsored to attend SB7.0, to hear from and meet with practicing experts, and to discuss biosecurity as it relates to synthetic biology with both peers and senior government leaders. Selected fellows will each receive up to US \$3,000 in travel support. Applications from all parts of the world are encouraged, by early to mid-career professionals working in synthetic biology, biosecurity, public health policy, defense or security policy, and related fields. The **deadline for application is Friday 28 April, 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time**. More information can be found on the [application portal](#).

Letter from the Depositaries to the BWC - The Depositaries of the BWC requested the ISU to transmit a [letter](#) concerning this year's assessed contributions to the Convention. Information about the status of contributions to the BWC is contained in Annex II of this [document](#) (status as of 31 March 2017).

Peer Review Pilot Exercise on national implementation of the BWC in Morocco - A three-day peer review pilot exercise will take place from 9 to 11 May 2017 in Morocco under the coordination of the National Institute of Hygiene/Ministry of Health. The three day event is supported by the European Union under project 4 of the EU Council Decision 2016/51. The peer review pilot exercise will feature a one day seminar followed by two days of visits to laboratories in Rabat and Casablanca. Further information on the event will be provided in the next BWC Newsletter.

New offer on the Assistance and Cooperation Database - The United States of America has offered the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) TRAIN Program under the Article X Database. The TRAIN Programme (<https://www.train.org/main/welcome>) provides more than 1,000 CDC approved and verified courses to learners across the public health community including public health practitioners, healthcare professionals, laboratorians, epidemiologists, veterinarians, first responders, educators, and students. Further information on all offers made under the Article X Database can be found [here](#).

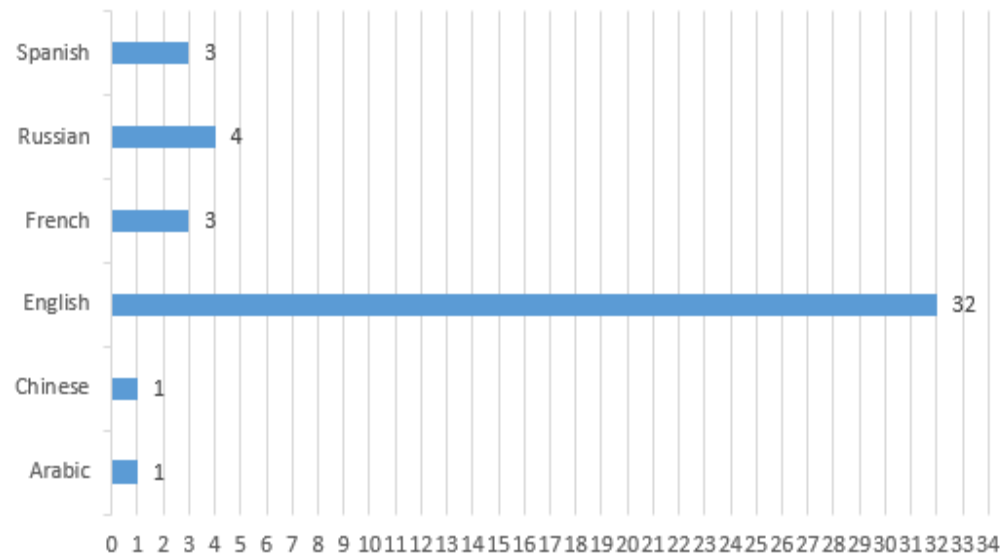
CBM status - submissions for reporting year 2016 (statistics as of 21 April 2017) -

44 States Parties (i.e. 24 per cent of all States Parties) have thus far submitted their CBMs for the calendar year 2016. Information on the individual CBM submissions and some basic statistics can be found on the [BWC web-site](#).

In 2016, 81 States Parties had submitted CBMs for the calendar year 2015. This represented the highest ever number of CBMs received.

The deadline for the submission of Confidence-Building Measure reports covering activities in 2016 was 15 April 2017.

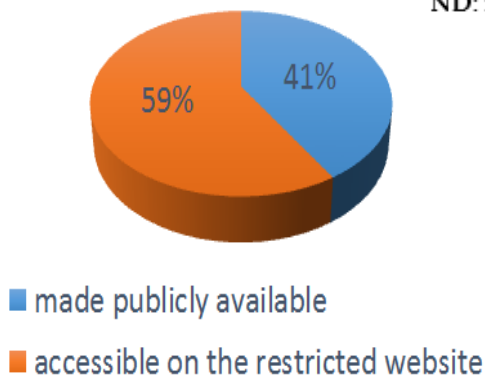
CBM Submission Language



CBMs submitted in 2017 for Reporting Year 2016



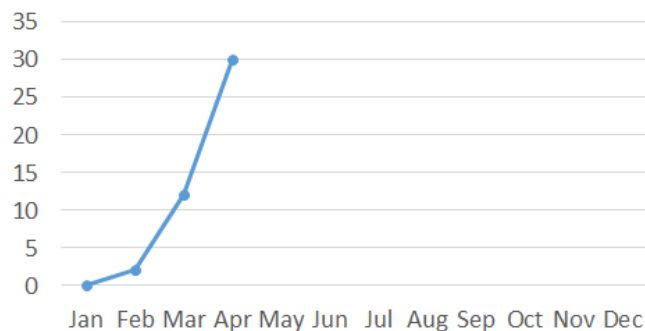
CBM Accessibility



Key:

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

CBM Submissions per Month



BWC ISU activities March - April 2017

University of Cambridge Workshop — The Eighth Review Conference of the BWC: Where Next?, Cambridge (21 March 2017)

Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief BWC-ISU attended a one- day workshop organized by the Centre for the study of Existential Risk/University of Cambridge. The workshop discussed the outcome of the Eighth Review Conference and identified potential steps for the way forward, including roles and capacities of international governmental and non-governmental organisations in support of the Convention. Mr. Feakes briefed about the outcome of the Review Conference.

Seventh Annual International Symposium: Biosecurity and Biosafety: Future Trends and Solutions, Milan (22–24 March 2017)

Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief BWC-ISU attended the Seventh International Symposium: biosecurity and biosafety: future trends and solutions in Milan. Mr. Feakes presented on the outcome of the Eighth BWC Review Conference.



7th International Symposium: Biosecurity and Biosafety: Future Trends and Solutions, Milan

Parliamentarians for Global Action Regional Africa Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the BWC, Freetown (27-28 March 2017)

Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief BWC-ISU briefed legislators and government officials from the Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Tanzania via Skype on the importance and relevance of the Convention (see [statement](#)). At the end of the workshop, representatives adopted a Plan of Action ([English](#) / [French](#) version) to facilitate crucial follow up actions. Further information on the event, including presentations can be found [here](#).



PGA Regional Africa Workshop on the BWC, Freetown

BWC ISU activities March - April 2017

Geneva International Model United Nations, (29 March 2017)

Mr. Daniel Feakes and Mr. Alex Lampalzer briefed students from the Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN) about the central role of the BWC in the multilateral disarmament framework. The 18th Annual Conference of the GIMUN took place from 25-31 March 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. GIMUN simulated a session of the Disarmament and Security Committee in which students addressed the threat of biological and toxin weapons in the twenty-first century.



Briefing for the Geneva International Model United Nations

Visit by Polish Academy of Diplomacy (3 April 2017)

Junior diplomats from the Polish Academy of Diplomacy paid a visit to UNODA. Mr. Daniel Feakes, Chief BWC-ISU briefed the group on the importance of the Convention and gave an update on Poland's activities carried out under the BWC.



Visit by the Polish Academy of Diplomacy

Visit by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (4 April 2017)

Undergraduate students from Boston University who currently participate in a 'study abroad' programme at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights paid a visit to UNODA. Mr. Alex Lampalzer provided the students with an introduction on the multilateral arms control and disarmament architecture and familiarized the students with the Convention.



Visit by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Recent publications on issues of relevance to the BWC

Disclaimer: the views and opinions in the publications are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ISU or States Parties. Items are included as a service to readers and do not imply endorsement. The ISU is not responsible for the content of third party websites.

Graham S. Pearson in association with Nicholas A. Sims (February 2017): The BTWC Eighth Review Conference: A disappointing Outcome (Harvard Sussex Program Occasional Paper No.46) - The report provides a detailed analysis of the proceedings and outcome of the Eighth BWC Review Conference. The document includes a commentary on the comparison of the Solemn Declaration and the Article by Article Final Declaration of the Eighth Review Conference versus the one of the Seventh Review Conference. Additionally, the report includes a comparative analysis of the Decisions and Recommendations section of the Final Document of the Eighth Review Conference to that of the President's proposal in **BWC/CONF.VIII/CRP.3**.

Nina Passoth, Kai Hoberg (2017): Herausforderung "Biosicherheit & Gesundheitsschutz" (Wehrmedizinische Monatsschrift 61 (2017), 2-3/2017) - the authors address in a supplement to the journal (in German) the issue of biosecurity and inform about the conduct of last year's peer review compliance visit exercise at the Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology in Munich. In addition, the report informs about the German Partnership Programme for Biosecurity and Health Safety, which is part of Germany's contribution to the G7 Global Partnership Against the Spread of WMD.

Steven Fairchild, Caroline R. M. Kennedy, Philippe Mauger, Todd J. Savage, Raymond A. Zilinskas: Findings from the 2016 Symposium on Export Control of Emerging Biotechnologies (CNS Occasional Paper 26, April 2017) - sixty experts from fifteen countries participated in the symposium planned and hosted by the International Biosecurity and Prevention Forum (IBPF) and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS). Participants flagged four biotechnologies and associated services as engagement priorities: ground-based aerosol generating systems, DNA synthesis and assembly equipment, high-throughput screening systems, and facility-wide production control software.

Staff news

Ms. Aurelie Buytaert started her three-month internship with the ISU on 3 April 2017. Ms. Buytaert studied International Relations at King's College London, where she focused on International Law, the EU's external action, and security issues. She has previously interned at the legal section of the European Union's Delegation to the UN in New York, as well as in humanitarian affairs.

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