Supporting the Universalization and Effective Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in Africa

BWC Working Group Friends of the Chair
Webinar Series: National Implementation
08 May 2024
Scope

All States in Africa, including non-States Parties

Assistance is available to all African States interested in joining the BWC and/or strengthening national implementation.

Support provided under the following projects:

- Global Partnership (GP) (- 2026)
- European Union Council Decision (- Dec 2023)
- France voluntary contribution (-Dec 2023)
Objectives

Support is being provided to African States in line with the following objectives:

- Promoting universalization of the BWC in Africa
- Capacity-building: CBM preparation and submission; NCP training
- Providing legislative assistance: incl. in-house legal assistance
- Supporting the designation of National Contact Points
- Strengthening coordination: national coordination; awareness raising; facilitating 3rd party assistance (Art.X)
What kind of support is available?

The following workshops and forums can be tailored to the needs and priorities of States

Promoting universalization of the BWC in Africa
- National Workshop on Universalisation of the BWC
- Parliamentary Visit Programme

Providing legislative assistance
- National Legal Drafting Workshop
- National Legislative Review Programme
- National Legal Awareness-Raising Forum

Sponsorship Programme
Facilitating the participation of national experts and officials to BWC Meetings in Geneva

Awareness-raising
- National Awareness-Raising and Sensitisation Workshop
- National Stakeholder Coordination and Awareness-Raising Forum

Training and capacity building
- Training Course on the Preparation and Submission of Confidence-Building Measures
- Training Course for National Contact Points

UNODA will work with all States in Africa to assess implementation status, needs and priorities
Activities

2023/2024

Ongoing implementation of national work plans and activities

**Awareness-Raising/CBM Workshops**
- Sao Tome and Principe
- The Gambia
- Togo
- Burundi
- Namibia
- Zambia
- Benin

**Upcoming activities**
- Guinea
- Central African Republic
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- Lesotho
- Rwanda

**Universalisation outreach**
- Chad
- Comoros

**5 Subregional workshops**
- East Africa (Mombasa, Kenya)
- Central Africa (Douala, Cameroon)
- North Africa (Rabat, Morocco)
- West Africa (Lome, Togo)
- South Africa (Gaborone, Botswana)

**Legal workshops**
- Ghana
- Libya
- Kenya
Synergies and Collaboration

Maximizing complementarities
Enhancing visibility, impact and sustainability
Avoiding duplication of efforts
Maximizing efficient use of resources

United Nations entities and international organizations
UN 1540 Committee; UNOCT; WHO; UNODC; UNIDIR; UNICRI; INTERPOL; WOAH; Africa CDC

NGOs
VERTIC; Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET)

States providing bilateral assistance
Status of BWC implementation

ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATUS

LEGISLATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

✓ States are making progress but adoption of national legislation is a slow process.
✓ Many States have draft laws pending government review.
✓ Very strong interest in legislative and regulatory frameworks relating to biosafety and biosecurity in countries across the continent.
✓ Few comprehensive legislative or regulatory regimes governing biosafety/biosecurity in the region and therefore few points of reference.
✓ Competing government and legislative priorities.
ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATUS

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION

✓ Lack of agreement or coordination, among relevant national stakeholders given broad sectoral impact (e.g., law enforcement, defence, health, customs, S&T, industry).
✓ Limited available biosafety and biosecurity training and therefore lack of trained personnel.
✓ Limited financial resources for biosafety/biosecurity infrastructure.
✓ Reporting fatigue
✓ Lack of appreciation of the complementarity between various disarmament regimes and concerns over duplication of effort.
✓ Confusion regarding available assistance
✓ Staff turnover

GOOD PRACTICES

✓ Systematised stakeholder communication
✓ South-South cooperation and engagement
✓ Knowledge sharing at the national level
✓ Coordination between various NCPs for the disarmament regimes (e.g. CBRN committees, WMD/non-proliferation councils)
✓ Stakeholder outreach and awareness-raising at the national level (e.g. policymakers, scientists, academia etc.)
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Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction

[Canadian, American, British flags]
Thank You!

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Project webpage

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