



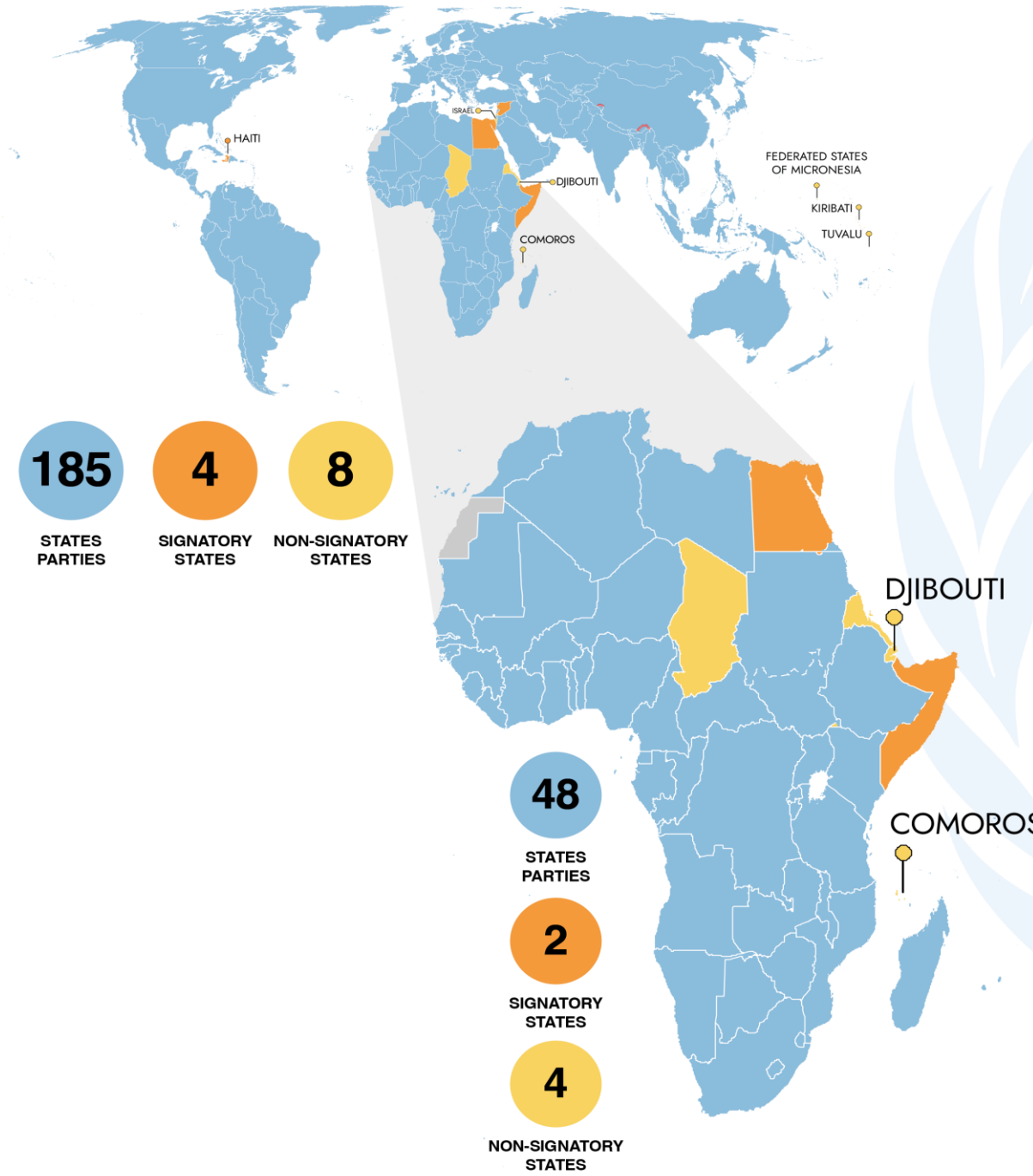
**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

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

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
Biological Weapons Convention



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



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



Sponsorship Programme

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

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

Legal workshops

- Ghana
- Kenya
- Libya

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)

Synergies and Collaboration



Maximizing complementarities



Enhancing visibility, impact and sustainability



Maximizing efficient use of resources



Avoiding duplication of efforts

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.

Status of BWC implementation

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.)



This project is supported by



Global Partnership Against
the Spread of Weapons and
Materials of Mass Destruction





Thank You!

Biological Weapons Convention
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[Project webpage](#)



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