South Africa: Confidence Building Measures Development

UNIDIR: BWC FoC Webinar on Confidence Building and Transparency, 06 May 2024

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KEY MECHANISMS

• Primary legislation: Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, 1993 (Act No. 87 of 1993)

• The National Contact Point/National Authority – South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (NPC)

• Multistakeholder Forum: Biological Weapons Working Committee (BWWC)
SA has a Weapons of Mass Destruction Legislation: Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Missile Dual-Use Items

Primary legislation: Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, 1993 (Act No. 87 of 1993)

- Prescribes the establishment of a National Authority
- Establishment of Committees to assist it in achieving its objectives
- if the Council so requests, make a declaration furnishing all information requested by the Council.

Secondary legislation: Regulation (Registration) and Government Notices (export control list); promulgated a code of conduct
• Person specifically designated to be responsible for CBMs: lead the process

• The South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (NPC)
  • Statutory body appointed by Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition to control and manage matters related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Republic
The NPC has established the Biological Weapons Working Committee (BWWC) to advise on BWC implementation:

They also assist in the gathering of information and preparation of the annual Confidence Building Measures Declaration = the primary source of data collection.

- Composed of various stakeholders: Government Departments, State Owned Entities and Industry
- Institutions that provide input into the forms are represented
CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

- Establishment of a multistakeholder forum: assists in the compilation of CBMs and overall implementation of BWC and related controls.

- Importance of doing skill gap analysis of Committee/Stakeholder: address deficiencies
  - Go further than just identifying the Department - put the section

- Challenges: Representative not relevant or considering operational requirements of other departments

- Important for NCP to also conduct research on industry

- Importance of National Implementing Legislation
QUESTIONS !!

THANK YOU

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