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# **Supporting the WMD Multilateral Framework**

## **The Biological Weapons Convention**

### **Engaging parliaments of the Pacific region in the implementation of UNSCR 1540**

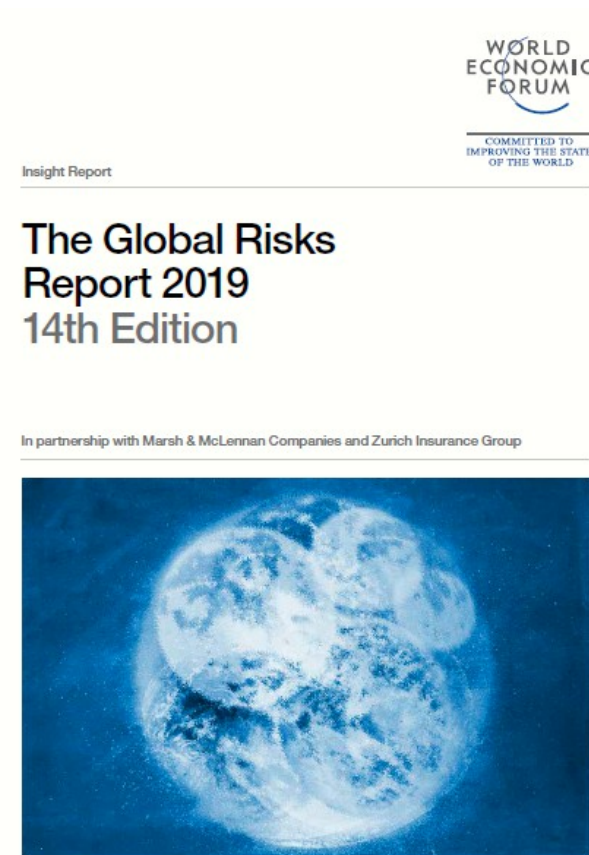
Wellington, 18 – 20 September 2019

Dr. Alex Lampalzer

Deputy Chief, BWC Implementation Support Unit

# World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2019

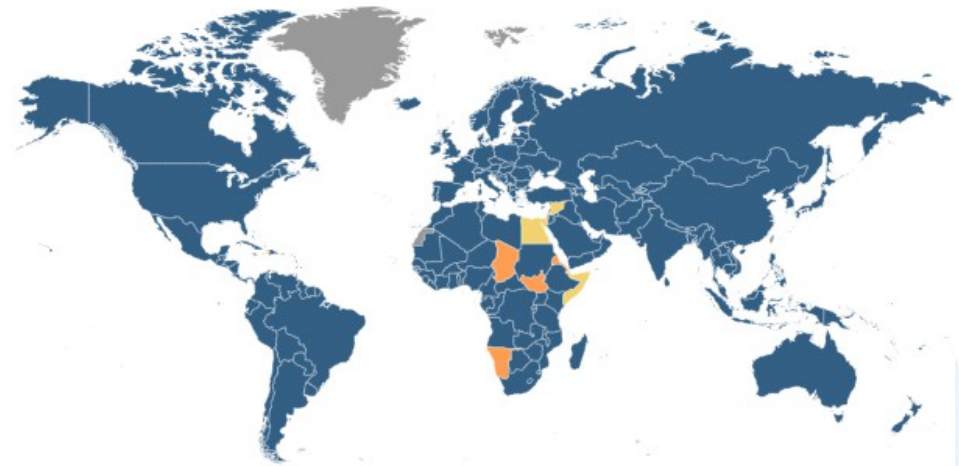
“The world is **badly under-prepared** for even modest biological threats. We are **vulnerable** to potentially huge impacts on individual lives, societal well-being, economic activity and national security. Revolutionary new biotechnologies promise miraculous **advances**, but they also create daunting **challenges of oversight and control.**”



# What is the Biological Weapons Convention all about?

Prohibits **development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, retention or transfer of BWs**

- Opened for signature on 10 April 1972
- EiF on 26 March 1975
- XV Articles
- First multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of WMD
- Non-discriminatory in nature
- Unlimited duration
- Open to any state



**183 States Parties**  
**4 Signatories**  
**10 States not party**



# Continued Political Support for the BWC



Samoa

State of Palestine

Tanzania

Niue

Central African Republic














# Resources to facilitate Treaty implementation

Weapon Category	Nuclear		Biological	Chemical
Treaty (Status)	<b>NPT</b>	<b>CTBT</b>	<b>BWC</b>	<b>CWC</b>
States Parties to the Treaty	191	168	183	193
Verification	☑	☑	☒	☑
Organisation	IAEA	CTBTO	-	OPCW
Budget (Mio., 2019)	€ 371.8	\$ 70,9 € 49,8	\$1,52	€ 69,7
Personnel (approx.)	2,560	275	3	462



# Membership in the Multilateral WMD Framework

State		NPT	CTBT	1925 Geneva Protocol	BWC	CWC	1540 National Report
Fiji		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kiribati		✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓
Micronesia		✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓
New Zealand		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Niue		-	✓	x	✓	✓	-
Samoa		✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Solomon Islands		✓	S	✓	✓	✓	-
Timor-Leste		✓	S	x	✓	✓	✓
Tonga		✓	S	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tuvalu		✓	S	x	x	✓	✓
Vanuatu		✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓

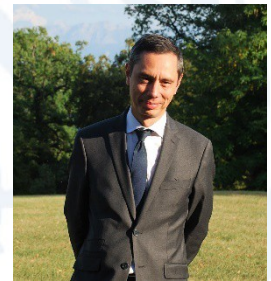






# How does the BWC work?

- States Parties obliged to translate the commitments found in the Convention into effective national action



- **Intersessional work programmes** between  the    
Review Conferences that  
include annual Meetings of   

# Why to join the BWC?

- Need to strengthen norm against BWs and make it universal
- Joining BWC will help meeting requirements of SCR 1540
- Sole multilateral forum for dialogue concerning all issues pertaining to BWs
- Promotes peaceful uses of biological S&T
- Benefit from capacity development programmes







# Why to join the BWC?

- Offers a consultation and cooperation mechanism
- Builds transparency through CBMs
- Assists States which have been exposed to a danger
- Minimal costs, very limited reporting and admin. resources for implementation

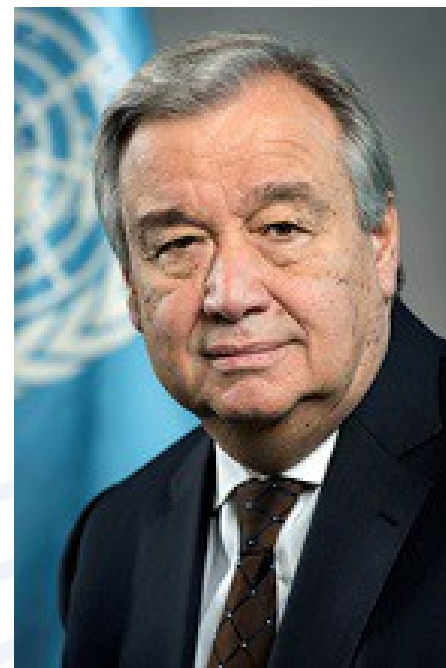


# Support under the BWC available

- Article X Assistance and Cooperation Database
- BWC Sponsorship Programme
- Various voluntary contributions to strengthen BWC implementation
- EU Council Decision 2019/97 (CFSP)



“We must continue to strengthen our institutions to prevent any use of biological weapons, including by strengthening the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, and to ensure that we can mount an adequate response in case prevention fails.”





# For more information ...

**[www.unog.ch/bwc](http://www.unog.ch/bwc)**

Or contact:

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