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
“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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weapon Category</th>
<th>Nuclear</th>
<th>Biological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treaty (Status)</td>
<td>NPT</td>
<td>CTBT</td>
<td>BWC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States Parties to the Treaty</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verification</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>IAEA</td>
<td>CTBTO</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget (Mio., 2019)</td>
<td>€ 371.8</td>
<td>$ 70,9</td>
<td>$1,52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel (approx.)</td>
<td>2,560</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>3</td>
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## Membership in the Multilateral WMD Framework

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<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
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How does the BWC work?

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

• Intersessional work programmes between Review Conferences that include annual Meetings of Experts and Meetings of States Parties.
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

Or contact:

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