

INTRODUCING VERTIC'S PROJECT ON NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING MEASURES

WHY IS VERTIC UNDERTAKING THIS PROJECT?

- To help states understand what measures they need to take at the national level to comply with their obligations under certain arms control and disarmament treaties, norms and UN Security Council resolutions; and
- To help states identify sources of technical and legislative assistance to help them draft and implement national measures.



WHY IS NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION IMPORTANT?

There are many benefits in adopting national legislation. For instance, national implementation measures can:

- Demonstrate a state's commitment to abide by its international obligations.
- Prohibit nuclear, biological and chemical weapons on the state's territory, thereby enhancing national and international security.
- Enable a state to investigate and prosecute violations of international law.
- Deter and prevent activities prohibited by international law.
- Enhance domestic and international awareness of the treaty.

VERTIC Fact Sheet 1, 'Why implement?' provides more information about why states need to implement national measures. It is enclosed in this information pack.

WHICH TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS DOES VERTIC'S PROJECT COVER?

VERTIC's project primarily focuses on national implementation measure obligations arising under the:

- 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT);
- 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);
- 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC);
- 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM);
- 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC);
- 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

HOW COULD THIS PROJECT HELP MY STATE TO MEET ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS?

- VERTIC is developing a guide to national implementation requirements under principal nuclear, biological and chemical weapons agreements. This will help states to identify areas in their national law and regulations where they might need to introduce new measures or strengthen existing ones.
- The guide will also include information on organizations and states offering technical and legislative assistance, as well as other useful resources.
- VERTIC is also holding a series of seminars and regional workshops to raise awareness of the need for national implementation measures.
- VERTIC's guide, seminars and workshops discuss approaches that states can take to meet their obligations.

HOW CAN MY GOVERNMENT GET A COPY OF THE GUIDE?

- The guide will be sent to the appropriate ministries in all states. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact jane.awford@vertic.org.
- It will also be available free to download from the VERTIC's website.

WHAT DOES VERTIC DO?

The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) promotes effective verification of international agreements. Our work falls within three programmes: arms control and disarmament, the environment and peace agreements. We cooperate closely with United Nations (UN) bodies and other international organizations. For more information see 'About us' on www.vertic.org.

WHAT VERTIC FACT SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT?

Introducing VERTIC's project on national implementing measures:

- Fact Sheet 1** Why and what to implement? Ensuring effective national laws on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons
- Fact Sheet 2** National implementation measures for the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT)
- Fact Sheet 3** National implementation measures for the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- Fact Sheet 4** National implementation measures for the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)
- Fact Sheet 5** National implementation measures for the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

FORTHCOMING:

- Fact Sheet 6** National implementation measures for the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention
- Fact sheet 7** United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS BEING HELD?

See the 'what's new?' page of www.vertic.org for up-to-date information on when and where VERTIC's seminars and regional workshops will be held.

FORTHCOMING:

DATE TO BE ADVISED (2006) - GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
'National nuclear weapons law'

DATES TO BE ADVISED (2006)
'Middle East regional workshop'

OTHER SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS:

12 JUNE 2006 - LONDON

'Approaches to national legislation for nuclear and biological weapons treaties, norms and UN Security Council Resolutions'; in association with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO).

2-3 MAY 2006 - DUBAI, UAE

'Laying the foundations for a WMDFZ in the Gulf: approaches to national legislation for WMD agreements'; co-sponsored by the Gulf Research Center (GRC), Dubai.

11 APRIL 2006 - NEW YORK

'Approaches to national legislation for nuclear and biological weapons treaties, norms and UN Security Council Resolutions'; in association with the UK Mission to the UN, on the margins of the Disarmament Commission meeting at UN Headquarters.

9 DECEMBER 2005 - GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

'Technical assistance for BWC implementation'; on the margins of the Meeting of States Parties to the BWC.

WHO IS FUNDING THIS PROJECT?

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WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

- On VERTIC's website: www.vertic.org; or
- Contact Jane Awford, VERTIC's Information Officer and Networker, by email: jane.awford@vertic.org; by telephone: +44 (0) 20 7065 0880; or by fax: +44 (0) 20 7065 0890