

# Getting Organised at the National Level for the Biological Weapons Convention

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Workshop on National Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540

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## Governmental and other bodies involved in BWC implementation

- Office of the Prime Minister or Head of Government;
- Office of the Attorney-General;
- Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Foreign Affairs, Health, Education, Science, Industry, Interior, Justice, Trade and Transportation;
- parliamentarians;
- law enforcement agencies;
- national academy of science;
- national forensic science laboratory;
- national border control authorities (customs, port authorities);
- national chamber of commerce; and
- national biotechnology industry association or other professional scientific bodies;
- civil society.

## National structures for implementing the BWC

- Necessary to link roles and responsibilities of various authorities with specific obligations of the BWC
- Inter-ministerial processes or structures
- Designate national focal points
- Designate point of contact for CBMs
- Consider establishing a National Authority
  - **monitor** and supervise any activities, including transfers, involving biological agents, toxins and dual-use technology and equipment;
  - **enhance** national security and public health;
  - **satisfy** its obligations under the BWC, particularly Article IV commitments relating to national implementation and annually reporting to the national assembly or parliament on progress made; and
  - **fulfil** international reporting requirements, under the BWC and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.



## National Authority

Internationally, the ‘National Authority’ could:

- act as a national focal point of contact for the BWC ISU;
- provide data and information relevant to the fulfilment of its international obligations to other States parties and international organizations; and
- share experiences and extend assistance to other States pertaining to implementation of the BWC.

## National Authority

Nationally, the 'National Authority' could:

- collect any necessary information and prepare Confidence-Building Measure returns for submission to the BWC ISU;
- propose and support the adoption of legislative and other measures to implement the BWC;
- supervise and monitor the enforcement of legislation and regulations;
- grant licenses for the handling of biological agents for peaceful purposes;
- establish a national system to monitor and verify activities being conducted in authorized establishments;
- authorize and monitor internal and international transfers of biological agents, toxins and dual-use equipment and technology;

## National Authority

Nationally, the ‘National Authority’ could:

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- create and maintain a national system to respond to biological emergencies;
- report to the parliament or national assembly on its activities;
- advise the prime minister or head of government on any BWC-related issues;
- coordinate and assist with any of the tasks above attributed to any other government bodies; and
- conduct or facilitate awareness-raising, education, outreach and training vis-à-vis the BWC, biosafety and biosecurity, national implementing legislation and other measures and codes of conduct for scientists.

## Establishment of a National Authority

- Composition, structure and mandate
- Scope
- Centralized or decentralized
- Government bodies involved
  - Ministry of health
  - Ministry of trade
  - Ministry of foreign affairs



## Assistance for Establishing a BWC National Authority

- BWC Implementation Support Unit

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A screenshot of the VERTIC website homepage. The header is dark blue with the VERTIC logo on the left and a search bar on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, EXPERTISE, PROGRAMMES, PUBLICATIONS, OPPORTUNITIES, and FOLLOW US. The main content area is divided into several sections: a large banner with the text "BUILDING TRUST THROUGH VERIFICATION" and a description of VERTIC's mission; a section titled "Seeking solutions to verification and implementation challenges" with a background image of a circuit board; a section titled "National Implementation Measures" with a background image of a document; and three columns of "Latest News", "Latest Publications", and "Latest Presentations". At the bottom right, there is a "Trust &amp; Verify subscription" form with an email input field and a "Submit" button, along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.