

**STATEMENT BY VERTIC TO THE 2015 MEETING OF EXPERTS  
TO THE 1972 BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**Delivered by Scott Spence, Programme Director for National Implementation**

Geneva, 10 August 2015

Mr Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Later this week, we will hear statements and presentations from States Parties, international organisations and Guests of the Chair on national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, one of the standing agenda items of the current intersessional process. As we head toward the Eighth Review Conference next year, it is worth recalling paragraph 11 of the Final Declaration of the Seventh Review Conference in which the Conference reaffirmed that the enactment and implementation of necessary national measures under Article IV would strengthen the effectiveness of the Convention and called upon States Parties to adopt legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures, including penal legislation.

VERTIC for its part has continued to provide legal services to interested governments. Though I will say more about our co-operation with States Parties in my remarks as a Guest of the Chair during Working Session 7, I will briefly highlight some of our activities since the Meeting of States Parties in December. During workshops that took place in January, we worked with Benin and Burkina Faso to draft national implementing legislation for the Convention and with Uganda to review their Biosecurity Bill with governmental stakeholders. These workshops formed part of the European Union's BWC Action programmes for these countries. In June we completed fourth and final visits to Cambodia and the Philippines under EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Project 8, for which we were the lead organisation. Cambodia now has draft measures to implement the BWC in Khmer while the Philippines' BWC bill is ready for interministerial review. In addition, we reviewed a BWC implementing bill for a Latin American State Party and completed an analysis of an African State Party's legislation to implement the Convention.

Mr Chair, we are pleased to inform you that the United Kingdom's Mission to the United Nations in New York submitted a number of VERTIC documents to the Chair of the Security Council's 1540 Committee in April, as examples of effective practices for implementation. Included in the UK's submission were VERTIC's *Sample Act for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Related Requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1540*, our *Regulatory Guidelines for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Related Requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1540* and our *Legislative Guide to National Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)*. These documents – as well as additional model laws, fact sheets and treaty texts for the Chemical Weapons Convention and

the international instruments for nuclear security – are available in all UN languages on our website and on our Programme CD, copies of which are available on the table outside this room.

Mr Chair, the BWC and the international legal framework to implement it are only as strong as the universality of the Convention's membership. VERTIC continues to work with non-States Parties, in co-ordination with the Implementation Support Unit and friendly States Parties, to encourage them to join the Convention without delay. We were honoured to have the opportunity to discuss ratification and implementation of the BWC with Myanmar at meetings in Yangon last year, and were delighted when they became the 171<sup>st</sup> State Party in December. We congratulate Andorra and Mauritania for joining the Convention earlier this year and look forward to Somalia's ratification in the near future to complement their accession to the CWC. To facilitate this process, we have sent their Government a universality package with information on how to join the BWC as well as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Thank you Mr Chair.

The following Implementation Documents for the BWC and related provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 are available –

- on VERTIC's NIM Programme CD (copies on the table outside the plenary room)
- at [www.vertic.org](http://www.vertic.org) > Programmes > National Implementation Measures > Biological Weapons and Materials > Legislative Drafting Tools > VERTIC: Compilation of CBRN National Implementation Documents (zip file) –

#### I. National Implementation:

- VERTIC: Sample Act for National Implementation of the BWC and UNSCR 1540 (*in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish*)
- VERTIC: Regulatory Guidelines for National Implementation of the BWC and UNSCR 1540 (*in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish*)
- ICRC-VERTIC: Model Law for the BWC (*in Arabic, English, Spanish*)
- VERTIC: Legislative Guide to National Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (*in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish*)

#### II. Accession to/Ratification of the BWC:

- Model Instrument of Accession (*in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish*)
- Model Instrument of Ratification (*in English, French, Spanish*)
- Contact details of the Depositaries (*in English*)

#### III. Background information:

- Text of the BWC (*in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish*)
- VERTIC: Fact Sheet 7: National Implementation Measures for the BWC (*in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish*)
- VERTIC: Fact Sheet 10: National Authority for the BWC (*in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish*)
- BioWeapons Prevention Project Reader (*in English*)
- Text of UNSCR 1540 (*in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish*)
- VERTIC: Fact Sheet 6: National Implementation Measures for UNSCR 1540 (*in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish*)