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VERTIC's National Implementation Measures (NIM) Programme¹ advises States on national implementation of the obligations in the Biological Weapons Convention ("BWC"); the Chemical Weapons Convention ("CWC"); the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material ("CPPNM") (as amended), the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism ("ICSANT"), the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and other instruments for the security of nuclear and other radioactive ("RN") material; as well as UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) ("UNSCR 1540").

The NIM Programme receives funding from Canada (Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada – Global Partnership Program), the United Kingdom (Foreign and Commonwealth Office – Strategic Programme Fund), the United States (Department of State – Biosecurity and Chemical Security Engagement Programs,) and the European Union (CBRN Centres of Excellence Project 8) to conduct this work. We act independently from these funders in conducting our work. The implementation approaches and views the NIM Programme suggests when carrying out our work do not necessarily reflect those of the funding governments and agencies.

The NIM Programme provides cost-free legislative drafting assistance and advice to interested States for implementation of the BWC, CWC, certain instruments related to nuclear security (listed above) and UNSCR 1540 in their domestic legal frameworks. Such assistance and advice can include:

- providing assistance in drafting of new legislation during workshops in capitals;
- reviewing and commenting on existing draft legislation;
- providing assistance in drafting UNSCR 1540 national action plans;
- supplying examples of legislation in force;
- providing examples of different approaches to CBRN regulation; and
- raising awareness of obligations under the BWC, the CWC and certain legal instruments to secure nuclear and other radioactive material.

We also:

- undertake comprehensive analysis (legislation surveys) of a State's existing laws and regulations for implementation of the BWC, CWC, certain legal instruments to secure nuclear and other radioactive material and the related provisions of UNSCR 1540, to identify potential gaps and areas requiring strengthening;
- provide legislative drafting tools for governments' information and use; and
- supply fact sheets for governments' information.

We also provide assistance to States in ratifying or acceding to the BWC, CWC, CPPNM amendment and ICSANT.

The NIM Programme has a strong record of achievement in these activities. Since October 2008, we have:

- developed model laws and regulatory guidelines for national implementation of the BWC and certain legal instruments to secure nuclear and other radioactive material;

¹ Comprehensive information about VERTIC's NIM Programme is available at www.vertic.org > Programmes >> NIM.

- completed over 142 surveys of BWC implementing legislation;
- laid the complex groundwork for nuclear security legislative analysis and completed 12 surveys of nuclear security implementing legislation;
- completed 7 surveys of CWC implementing legislation;
- provided drafting assistance to States to prepare BWC implementing legislation;
- provided drafting assistance to States to prepare CWC implementing legislation;
- worked with States to review or prepare a UNSCR 1540 national action plan;
- supplied information on request concerning the establishment of a National Authority, developing control lists and defining prohibited materials to many States; and
- given information and support to several States concerning BWC accession or ratification; CWC accession; and CPPNM amendment and ICSANT ratification or accession.

NIM Programme staff regularly liaise with the UNSCR 1540 Committee, its expert group and UNODA (and UNODA regional offices) concerning our legislative assistance activities. In addition, our staff liaise and coordinate outreach with officials from the OPCW, IAEA, BWC ISU and BWC Action, UNODC, ICRC, WHO, as well as other regional and sub-regional organizations conducting UNSCR 1540 assistance such as the European Union, OSCE and CARICOM. The NIM Programme has also conducted joint assistance visits with many of these organizations to date.

NIM Programme staff are highly qualified to conduct this work. We have post-graduate qualifications in law, substantive knowledge of CBRN legislation (including training at the International School of Nuclear Law in Montpellier, France) and legislative drafting skills. The team also includes staff fluent in Dutch, French, Spanish and Turkish, in addition to English.

We would be pleased to provide any additional information concerning our assistance activities. Also visit www.vertic.org at Programmes > National Implementation Measures.

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