

# VERIFICATION RESEARCH, TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTRE

Development House, 56–64 Leonard Street  
London EC2A 4LT, United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0)20 7065 0880

Fax +44 (0)20 7065 0890

Website [www.vertic.org](http://www.vertic.org)

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VERTIC's National Implementation Measures (NIM) Programme, established in 2008, 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 (as amended) (CPPNM/A), 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 material<sup>1</sup>; as well as UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) (UNSCR 1540).

The NIM Programme:

- undertakes 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 (noted in the previous paragraph) and the related provisions of UNSCR 1540, to identify potential gaps and areas requiring strengthening;
- provides legislative drafting tools for governments' information and use; and
- supplies fact sheets for governments' information.

The NIM Programme also raises awareness about and provides cost-free legislative drafting assistance and advice to interested States for implementation of the BWC, CWC, certain instruments related to nuclear security 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 developing 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 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:
  - *Legislative Guide to National Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)*
  - *Sample Act for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Related Requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1540*

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<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (Beijing Convention); Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (as amended by the 2005 Protocol); Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (as amended by the 2005 Protocol).

- *Regulatory Guidelines for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Related Requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1540*
- *National Legislation Implementation Kit on Nuclear Security*
- developed a BWC Legislation Drafting Assistant, an online tool designed to support States to develop a tailored draft bill for the implementation of the BWC and related provisions of UNSCR 1540;
- completed over 160 legislation surveys to analyse how States are implementing the BWC, CWC and international legal instruments for nuclear security;
- provided drafting assistance to States to prepare implementing legislation for the BWC, CWC and certain legal instruments to secure nuclear and other radioactive material;
- 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 co-ordinate outreach with officials from the OPCW, IAEA, BWC ISU, UNODC, ICRC, WHO, as well as other regional and sub-regional organisations conducting UNSCR 1540 assistance such as the European Union, OSCE, UNLIREC and CARICOM. The NIM Programme has also conducted joint assistance visits with many of these organisations 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 French and Spanish, in addition to English.

We would be pleased to provide any additional information concerning our assistance activities. Also visit [www.vertic.org](http://www.vertic.org) at Programmes > National Implementation Measures.

NIM Programme staff are:

Scott Spence, Programme Director, [scott.spence@vertic.org](mailto:scott.spence@vertic.org)

Sonia Drobysz, Senior Legal Officer, [sonia.drobysz@vertic.org](mailto:sonia.drobysz@vertic.org)