

4 December 2008

UNIDIR side event at the BWC Meeting of States Parties

On Thursday, 4 December 2008 UNIDIR hosted a side event on the "Universalization of the Confidence-Building Measures in the Biological Weapons Convention".

Angela Woodward, VERTIC's Executive Director presented on "Reaching a tipping-point: achieving universalization of the CBMs in the BWC". Angela provided some thoughts on how to achieve greater participation in these confidence-building information exchanges. She explored the meaning of universality, examined some of the reasons why many States Parties continue to remain outside the CBM process; and emphasized on the need to develop strategies for improving the relevance of CBMs.

[Presentation](#)

1 December 2008

VERTIC Statement at the 2008 BWC Meeting of States Parties

Rocio Escauriaza, VERTIC's Legal Officer, delivered VERTIC's statement to the 2008 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

VERTIC statement gave an overview of the various achievements of the NIM Project on its second phase; and outlined successful outcome of the Biosecurity Conference held in Amman in October.

[VERTIC Statement](#)

1-5 December 2008

VERTIC side events at BWC Meeting of States Parties

VERTIC organized several side events during the 2008 BWC Meeting of States Parties held in Geneva.

On **Monday 1st December** VERTIC co-hosted with the [Bioweapons Prevention Project \(BWPP\)](#) a lunchtime seminar on 'National Implementation and Universalization of the BWC'. [Presentation](#)

Le **Mardi 2 Décembre**. Atelier en français sur les 'Mesures pour l'Application à l'Echelon National de la Convention sur les Armes Biologiques'. Un atelier (en français). [Présentation](#)

El **Jueves 4 de Diciembre**. Taller en español sobre las 'Medidas para la Aplicación de la Convención sobre las Armas Biológicas'. [Presentación](#)

24-26 November 2008

VERTIC at Legality of Traded Timber meeting

Larry MacFaul, VERTIC's Senior Researcher, Environment Programme, attended the international workshop on 'Legality of traded timber: the development challenges' held in Rome from the 24-26 of November and organized by VERIFOR and FAO's Forestry Department.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the dialogue on the legality of traded timber between participant countries. It also aimed to develop strategies to improve forest law compliance. Among others, participants discussed on the role of new technologies on forest governance, mechanisms and structures for independent forest monitoring and on the convergence of policy processes at the national and international level.

Larry presented on review and verification systems in REDD. The presentation summarized findings of the VERTIC/ODI working paper 'Verification of REDD mechanisms: building national and international institutions and procedures'.

November 2008

VERTIC former Director Patricia Lewis awarded

VERTIC wishes to congratulate Dr. Patricia Lewis, former Executive Director of VERTIC, on being awarded the American Physical Society 2009 Joseph A. Burton Forum Award "for her contributions to arms control and international security, through experiments to demonstrate verifiability of arms control treaties and through her leadership of two non-governmental organizations, VERTIC and UNIDIR." Dr. Lewis will be presented this award at a special ceremony during the APS meeting in Denver, CO, USA in April 2009. The American Physical Society Joseph A. Burton Forum Award was established to recognize outstanding contributions to the public understanding or resolution of issues involving the interface of physics and society.

Patricia Lewis [biography](#)

27-29 October 2008

VERTIC co-hosts a Biosecurity Conference in Jordan

VERTIC co-hosted together with the [Arab Institute for Security Studies \(ACSIS\)](#) a conference in Amman, Jordan on "Confronting Biological Threats: Biosecurity, Biological Weapons Non-Proliferation, and Regional Cooperative Mechanisms".

This Conference brought together academic experts and practitioners from governments, inter-governmental organisations, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector to discuss and promote effective biosecurity in the Middle East region.

Presentations:

Paula A.DeSutter - [Attribution and Deterrence of Biological Weapons Use](#)

Dr. Coates- [Roles of export controls in biosecurity and non-proliferation](#)

Dr. Kornguth - [Biological security capabilities](#)

Dr. Onapa - [Developing biosafety and biosecurity](#)

Dr. Guillermo Velarde y Dr. Natividad Carpintero Santamaria - [An Overview on biological weapons threat](#)

Dr. Sudha Raman - [The emerging biological weapons threat](#)

Dr. Iris Hunger - [Dual-use research, bioweapons and biosecurity](#)

Ms. Elisa D.Harris- [Biotechnology research: biorisks and biosecurity responses](#)

Dr. Ajey Lele - [Asian view on national and regional legislation implementation](#)

Dr. Brian Rappert - [Experiences in promoting bioresponsability through education](#)

Dr. Robert Mathews - [The BWC, UNSCR1540 and Codes of Conduct](#)

Dr. Julie Fisher - [Disease Surveillance](#)

Dr. Ray Zilinskas - [Responding to biological threats in agriculture](#)

Dr. Amy Smithson - [Best practices in consequence management for disease disasters](#)

Dr. Piers Millett - [The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention processes](#)

Dr. Robert Mathews - [Regional Engagement to Enhance Biosecurity](#)

October 2008

VERTIC makes its NIM Tools available in Arabic

VERTIC has recently translated some of its NIM Tools to make them available in Arabic. In particular, VERTIC has translated its 'Sample Act for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and related Requirements of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540'; and its National Implementation Measures BWC and CWC factsheets, which aim to provide information on what measures need to be taken at the national level to comply with the obligations contained under the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions.

NIM Tools available in Arabic...:

[VERTIC Sample Act](#)

[BWC Factsheet](#)

[CWC Factsheet](#)

22 August 2008

VERTIC hosted a lunchtime seminar during BWC Meeting of Experts

VERTIC hosted a lunchtime seminar on 'National Implementation Measures for Effective Biosecurity and Biosafety' during the 2008 BWC Meeting of Experts.

The event took place on 22 August from 13h to 15h at the Palais des Nations (Room XXIII, Building E).

[Agenda](#)

[VERTIC's Presentation](#)

18 August 2008

VERTIC Statement at the 2008 BWC Meeting of Experts

Rocio Escauriaza, Research Assistant at VERTIC, delivered VERTIC's statement to the 2008 Meeting of Experts to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

VERTIC emphasized on the necessity to adopt national implementation measures ensuring effective biosafety and biosecurity for pathogens and toxins to be only used for legitimate scientific purposes.

Rocio outlined that VERTIC is available and capable of assisting States Parties to implement the content of

the Convention. To that end, VERTIC has published several materials available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

[VERTIC Statement in English, French and Spanish](#)

July 2008

New VERTIC Sample Act in English, French and Spanish

VERTIC has revised its '*Sample Act for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and related Requirements of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540*' and has made it available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. This Sample Act has been developed to assist countries in drafting legislation to implement the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the biological weapons-related provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. It is a tool which legislative drafters may freely use, while taking into consideration their country's legal framework, level of biotechnological development, and other national circumstances. The Act provides sample provisions preventing and prohibiting biological weapons activities, as well as provisions enabling States to effectively regulate legitimate activities.

[Arabic](#)

[English version](#)

'Sample Act for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and related Requirements of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540'

[French version](#)

'Loi Type pour la mise en oeuvre de la Convention sur les Armes Biologiques ou à Toxines de 1972 et les dispositions pertinentes concernant les armes biologiques de la Résolution 1540 du Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU'.

[Russian](#)

'Образец закона для осуществления на национальном уровне Конвенции 1972 года о запрещении биологического и токсинного оружия и связанных с ней требований Резолюции 1540, принятой Советом Безопасности ООН'

[Spanish version](#)

'Ley Tipo para la Aplicación Nacional de la Convención de 1972 sobre Armas Biológicas y Tóxicas y Requisitos Relacionados de la Resolución 1540 del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU'

June 2008

New VERTIC Fact sheets on National Implementation Measures for BWC and CWC

VERTIC has released two new factsheets to complete the series of fact sheets on National Implementation Measures. This series aims to provide information on what measures need to be taken at the national level to comply with the obligations contained under certain arms control and disarmament treaties and the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and to identify sources of technical and legislative assistance to assist States in drafting national implementing measures.

VERTIC's new fact sheets look at what are the obligations contained in BWC and CWC, what types of national implementing measures are required to comply with these Conventions and they also provide contact details for BWC and CWC assistance providers.

Fact sheet 7

National implementation measures for the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC)

[Arabic](#)

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Spanish](#)

Fact sheet 8

National implementation measures for the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC)

[Arabic](#) (provisional version)

[English](#)

[French](#)
[Spanish](#)

9 June 2008

VERTIC participates in a seminar on BWC ratification in Malawi

Rocio Escauriaza participated in the seminar 'Building Stakeholdership in support of Malawi's Ratification of the BTWC', which took place in Lilongwe, on the 5th June 2008. The seminar was organised by the BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP), the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (Lilongwe, Malawi) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). The Seminar gathered together all relevant stakeholders from the Malawian Government and civil society.

Among others, participants heard presentations on the threat posed by infectious disease, on the aspects of warfare, terrorism and crime involving biological agents, on Malawi's participation in CWC and on Zambia's recent experience ratifying BWC.

In her presentation on 'National Implementation of the BTWC obligations', Rocio talked about the status of BWC in the African region, about the obligations contained in BWC and about the necessary measures to implement the Convention. Rocio also emphasized on the necessity to comply with UN Security Council resolution 1540.

[Presentation](#)

15 April 2008

VERTIC working with Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs) on illegal logging

VERTIC is currently working with Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs) to develop a set of indicators to measure the extent and effectiveness of the response to illegal logging across a range of countries and sectors. The indicators cover awareness of the issue, government policy development and implementation, private sector policy development and implementation, and what is known about the extent of illegal logging and associated trade. The project findings should also assist policy-makers in developing the most effective responses to this issue. Work is underway on the first (pilot) phase, covering twelve producer, consumer and processor countries.

The work is funded by UK Departement for International Development.

9 April 2008

VERTIC researches attend Norway OSI workshop

Andreas Persbo and Larry MacFaul travelled to Norway on 1 April 2008 to participate in an on-site inspection exercise planning meeting. This meeting forms part of the on-going bilateral work between Norway and the United Kingdom on the verified dismantlement of nuclear warheads.

VERTIC's work in this area is funded by the UK Ministry of Defence.

9 April 2008

VERTIC Director attends seminar on CWC

VERTIC Angela Woodward attended a seminar on "The Chemical Weapons Convention between Disarmament and International Humanitarian Law" organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo on 15 February 2008. This initiative provided an opportunity to contribute to the debate in view of the Chemical Weapons Convention Second Review Conference, to be held in The Hague in April 2008. Participants discussed on the politics of the Second Review Conference and on issues that will be debated during the Review Conference such as universalization of CWC, the destruction progress to meet the deadlines, challenges posed by the advancement of science, technology and dual use material; verification issues, national implementation efforts and provision of assistance. The relationship between CWC and international humanitarian law was also discussed.

[Report by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law \(PDF, 66k\)](#)

9 April 2008

VERTIC Director delivers statement at the CWC Second Review Conference Open Forum

Angela Woodward and Rocio Escauriaza participated in the Open Forum 'The Chemical Weapons Convention-recent experiences and future prospects' hosted by the OPCW Technical Secretariat on the 9 April 2008 during the CWC Second Review Conference.

The event brought together representatives of non-governmental organisations, the chemical industry, leading academic experts, practitioners, diplomats and policy makers. The Forum examined several aspects of the functioning of the CWC and OPCW, under three main themes: 'Creating a more secure world through the Chemical Weapons Convention', 'Peaceful chemistry' and 'The impact of science and technology on the CWC verification regime'.

Angela Woodward, Executive Director of VERTIC spoke on national implementation of CWC during the Open Forum. In her statement, she emphasized the necessity of a comprehensive implementation of the Convention, including the General Purpose Criterion. She insisted on the need to see national implementation as an ongoing process and outlined the importance of including all relevant national stakeholders in the process, to ensure an effective national implementation.

VERTIC Statement

Other statements and presentations delivered during the Open Forum are available at the 'Second review Conference 2008 Website' developed by Daniel Feakes of the Harvard Sussex Program.

17 March 2008

VERTIC's nuclear law and policy researcher delivers statement to conference in Iran

On 9 March 2008, Andreas Persbo travelled to Tehran to participate in a conference on Iran's nuclear programme and the scope for further Iranian cooperation with the IAEA. He delivered a paper entitled 'a static situation in need of change' (PDF, 104k) in which he called for Iranian leadership in nuclear safeguards thinking.

VERTIC's work on enhancing safeguards in Iran is supported by the Joseph-Rowntree Charitable Trust, an 'independent, progressive organisation committed to funding radical change towards a better world'.

8 February 2008

VERTIC hosts a technical coordination meeting for NIM assistance providers

On 29 January 2008, VERTIC hosted a technical coordination meeting of international organizations, states and non-governmental organizations providing legislative assistance for national implementation of the BWC, CWC, NPT, CTBT, CPPNM and UNSCR 1540.

During the day, participants heard presentations from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP). VERTIC's Executive Director, Angela Woodward, outlined VERTIC's continuing work in this important field. Participants also heard a short presentation of the work of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). A UNSCR 1540 Committee Expert in New York joined the meeting via a conference call. Several states were also represented at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for learning about each other's work in this area, to foster informal relationships among legislative assistance providers and to explore the potential for increased co-operation among assistance providers. There are many lessons learned by implementation assistance providers who have been active in the field for some time (such as the IAEA and the OPCW) that can be transferred to implementation assistance programmes in the nascent BW implementation assistance field. Presentations from the meeting are available at VERTIC NIM events.