

15 December 2010

VERTIC releases two new nuclear briefing papers

VERTIC has now released a pair of briefing papers, one on the [2010 NPT review conference](#) and one on the [2010 IAEA General Conference](#). The first - written by David Cliff, with support from former VERTIC intern Hugh Chalmers and VERTIC volunteer Sonia Drobysz - analyses the various verification-relevant parts of the review conference's final document and seeks to explain the main issues in nuclear verification today. The second, a collaborative effort by the VERTIC Arms Control and Disarmament Programme, seeks to provide readers with an overview of the main events of this year's IAEA General Conference - especially deliberations on safeguards, nuclear security and the Middle East. The VERTIC Arms Control and Disarmament Programme, which is comprised of Andreas Persbo, Hassan Elbahtimy and David Cliff, attended the General Conference this year and the paper is thus partly informed by first-hand observations.

10 December 2010

VERTIC participates in BWC Meeting of the States Parties

VERTIC's National Implementation Measures team participated in the [BWC Meeting of the States Parties](#) during 6-10 December in Geneva. In addition to holding several bilaterals with countries from all regions of the world, VERTIC gave a [statement](#) during the plenary session on Monday and held a side event on Tuesday morning covering: the status of implementation of the BWC and a call for an action plan; the launch of VERTIC's new website and [BWC Legislation Database](#); withdrawal of Geneva Protocol reservations; and a VERTIC article on amendment of the Rome Statute to explicitly include biological and chemical weapons use as war crimes.

VERTIC also participated in a side event on Friday to discuss the [BioWeapons Prevention Project's](#) launch of the BWPP Monitor and other BWPP activities during 2010.

VERTIC's NIM team is Angela Woodward (Programme Director); Scott Spence (Senior Legal Officer); Rocio Escauriaza Leal (Legal Officer); Samir Mechken (Legal Consultant) and Yasemin Balci (Programme Assistant). For more information, please contact [Yasemin Balci](#).

7 December 2010

VERTIC launches new website and BWC Legislation Database

VERTIC is pleased to announce the launch of its new website and [BWC Legislation Database](#). The website has been completely redesigned with a fresh new look for our 25th anniversary in 2011. It is easier to navigate through the Programmes, and all of the information from our old website is now more readily accessible.

We have also significantly expanded our BWC Legislation Database with over 1500 new laws and regulations. This can be accessed through the tab "Databases".

The user will also find useful social networking tools including direct links to our updated Facebook, Twitter and VERTIC Blog accounts as well as direct links for sharing our pages through the sharing tools feature signified by a '+'.

4 December 2010

VERTIC participates in CWC Conference of the States Parties

Angela Woodward (Programme Director), Scott Spence (Senior Legal Officer), and Samir Mechken (Legal Consultant) participated in the 15th Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention during 29 November to 3 December.

The NIM team staff held bilaterals with States Parties, met with representatives of the OPCW and other international and intergovernmental organisations and with other members of civil society.

Scott gave a presentation on a paper which will soon be published entitled: *Chemical and Biological Weapons in the Rome Statute: A Case for Change*.

Angela and Scott also met with other members of the [Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition \(CWCC\)](#) to discuss a work plan for 2011 and the new website.

23 November 2010

VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer Participates in Como event

Scott Spence, VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer, participated in the workshop "Global Networking to Promote Biosecurity and Limit Dual Use Risks - The Science-Ethics-Law-Security Nexus", during 12-13 November in Como, Italy.

A number of thematic sessions comprised of speakers with a broad range of different expertise focused on different aspects of the challenge related to biosecurity and dual use risks. Such sessions included:

- Public health, including preparedness and response and science for prevention and detection;
- Legal implementation on the national and international levels;
- The role of bioethics in dual use;
- Collaborative education and awareness raising efforts.

Contemporary international cooperative programmes related to biosecurity were also discussed; along with the cornerstone of efforts to prevent the malign use of the life sciences, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Scott's paper "A CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES OF REGULATING BIOSECURITY" is attached [here](#).

1 November 2010

VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer and WMD Legal Consultant participate in BWC workshop in Qatar

VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer, Scott Spence, and WMD Legal Consultant, Samir Mechken, participated in the workshop "Qatar's commitment towards implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention". The workshop took place in Doha, Qatar, on 28 October, with the participation of the BWC Implementation Support Unit and several Qatari ministries and agencies. VERTIC strongly supports Qatar's commitment to the Convention, particularly in view of a week during which explosive weapons were shipped from Sana'a, Yemen in cargo and passenger planes via Dubai, Doha and East Midlands Airport in the United Kingdom. This episode underlines the importance of all countries ensuring that their legislative frameworks are robust enough to respond to the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in and through their territories, and that they can investigate, prosecute and punish terrorist offenders using these weapons.

VERTIC stands ready to assist any country that requires assistance towards the objective of preparing strong and effective legislation for the implementation of the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons treaties.

1 November 2010

VERTIC Senior Legal Officer participates in Moldova Forum

Scott Spence, VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer, was invited to participate in the "Trilateral Civilian-Military Forum on Outbreak Response and Bioterrorism Investigation" during 19-21 October 2010 in Chisinau, Moldova.

The Forum was organized by the United States European Command (EUCOM), United States Army, Public Health Command Region-Europe (USPHC), and United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); supported by the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM); funded by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC); and hosted by the Government of Moldova in participation with the Government of Romania. VERTIC wishes to thank the organizers and funders for giving the opportunity for Scott to participate in this event where he discussed the importance of a robust legislative framework for the management of an outbreak or bioterrorist incident.

28 October 2010

Verifying Warhead Dismantlement: Past, present, future

VERTIC releases the presentation on its latest report on verified warhead dismantlement. The presentation was delivered to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, New York, on 19 October 2010, the East West Institute, New York, on 20 October 2010 and finally the American Association for the Advancement of Science (together with the Nuclear Threat Initiative), Washington, DC, on 22 October 2010.

Our report, [Verifying Warhead Dismantlement: Past, present, future](#), builds on VERTIC's three-year involvement with the so-called UK-Norway Initiative to investigate some of the issue involved in the verification of nuclear warhead dismantlement.

As the first time a non-nuclear-weapon state has partnered with a nuclear-weapon one in this way, the UK-Norway Initiative has broken important new ground, and set what may yet become a strong precedent for future work.

VERTIC has been involved as an independent observer to the Initiative from the project's earliest beginnings in 2007.

Download [here](#) (PDF, 217k)

19 October 2010

Verification for Future Nuclear Arms Reductions

The American Association for the Advancement of Science's next DC Nuclear Security luncheon will be a special expanded three hour, two-panel discussion on both the technical and policy needs for the verification of future nuclear arms reduction. This event is a joint effort of AAAS and the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and will also serve as the Washington DC release of two new publications.

NTI will release the new book *Cultivating Confidence: Verification, Monitoring, And Enforcement for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons* which supports the work of the Nuclear Security Project—led by former Secretary of State George P. Shultz, former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and former Senator Sam Nunn—in defining major mileposts on the path to disarmament by addressing gaps in conceptual frameworks and technical details. *Addressing verification, Cultivating Confidence* contributes to a blueprint of actions that future government leaders will need to guide policy making, diplomacy and technical development to reduce nuclear dangers.

VERTIC's report – 'Verifying Warhead Dismantlement: Past, Present, Future' surveys the current state of knowledge on disarmament verification. The report builds on VERTIC's three-year involvement in the UK-Norway Initiative on the verified dismantlement of nuclear weapons as an independent observer. In addition to analysis of the UK Norway initiative, the report provides a historical overview of unclassified research into disarmament verification extending from the 60s till now. The report draws out commonalities and difference in previous efforts to address disarmament verification and also explores how the current state of knowledge can be advanced.

When: 22 October 201, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM EST.

Where: AAAS World Headquarters, 1200 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC, Abelson/Haskins Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Please RSVP to Benn Tannenbaum at [btannenb \[at\] aaas.org](mailto:btannenb@aaas.org)

Note: The presentations will be on the record, but some of the question and answer sessions may be off the record.

"Verification for Future Nuclear Arms Control"

October 22, 2010

11:00-2:00

11:00 Policy Considerations for Verification

Chair: Sharon Squassoni (CSIS)

Corey Hinderstein (NTI) – Findings of the NTI Verification Study: *ultivating Confidence*

Benn Tannenbaum (AAAS) – Bridging the gap between technology and policy

Steve Fetter (OSTP) – Administration priorities

12:00 Lunch

12:15 The Future Technical Agenda

Chair: Jeffrey Lewis (New America Foundation)

Andreas Persbo (VERTIC) – Report of Vertic

James Fuller (PNL)– Verified Warhead Dismantlement, current needs

Rick Wallace (LANL) – Nuclear material verification

1:15 Discussion

Chair: Pierce Corden, AAAS

12 October 2010

VERTIC presentation at the EastWest Institute

On Wednesday, 20 November 2010, VERTIC will give a presentation on its recently published report 'Verifying Warhead Dismantlement: past, present, future' to a seminar organized by the East West Institute. The EastWest Institute is a global think-and-do tank that devises innovative solutions to pressing security concerns and mobilizes networks of individuals, institutions and nations to implement these solutions. The EastWest Institute is a global think-and-do tank that devises innovative solutions to pressing security concerns and mobilizes networks of individuals, institutions and nations to implement these solutions. The meeting is open. A light lunch will be served at 1:15pm; the meeting will begin promptly at 1:30pm and end at 2:30pm. Please RSVP to Ms. Sarah Terry (phone: 212- 824-4130; sterry [at] ewi.info) by Friday 15 October 2010.

11 October 2010

VERTIC to lecture at CTBTO course

VERTIC researcher Hassan EIBahtimy will travel to Vienna next week to give a presentation to a new course set up by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

The course, entitled "Strengthening Verification, Enhancing Security: The Science and Political Significance of the CTBT," is a component of the broader capacity development initiative being carried out by the CTBTO. The vision for the capacity development initiative is based on the realization that building and maintaining the necessary capacity to deal with the technical, scientific and political complexities of arms control is a key challenge for the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Therefore, it is essential that the CTBTO provides opportunities to as many stakeholders as possible to participate on an equal footing in the implementation of multilaterally established regimes and in the benefits thereof.

This entry-level course is designed to strengthen and broaden participation in global monitoring and verification efforts and to promote understanding and awareness of the Treaty and the work of the CTBTO.

It is still possible to apply to attend: find more information at the [course website](#).

4 October 2010

Professor David Wolfe joins advisory network

Professor David Wolfe is Emeritus Professor in physics and astronomy from the University of New Mexico. He retired from the faculty in 2001. He started his academic career as a research associate at the University of Chicago's Enrico Fermi Institute. In 1999, he founded the Oppenheimer Institute for Science and International Cooperation, a small organization devoted to cooperative threat reduction in the Former Soviet Union. He still maintains extensive ties with staff at Russia's nuclear cities.

One of Professor Wolfe's main passions is teaching, for which he is the recipient of several awards. He is about to take up a position in South Africa, in an effort to bring students from disadvantaged background into physics careers.

Andreas Persbo, VERTIC's Executive Director, said 'I am very pleased to welcome David Wolfe back to the VERTIC family. I have known him for several years and have always been impressed by his brilliant scientific mind, as well as his eagerness to transfer his knowledge to younger generations. In David, I hope to have found a true mentor for our many interns who pass through our offices every year. I am very much looking forward to working with him in the years to come'.

1 October 2010

Trust & Verify No. 130

In this issue:

Hartwig Spitzer returns to deliver an update on the progress of open-skies implementation, Justin Alger discusses the safeguards and non-proliferation implications of the nuclear revival. Also verification watch, verification quotes, science and technology scan, centre news and events as well as a note from the Executive Director.

Download [here](#) (PDF, 0.98MB)

16 September 2010

VERTIC Executive Director attends Colombo workshop

On 15-16 September, Andreas Persbo attended a workshop on verified dismantlement of short range ballistic missiles in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He gave a presentation on concepts for a verification regime. Mr. Persbo took the opportunity to circulate copies of the centre's latest report on verified warhead dismantlement to the South Asian arms control community.

VERTIC is grateful to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies for their kind invitation to attend this meeting.

13 September 2010

VERTIC Executive Director attends preparatory workshop for the Washington Forum

On 13 September 2010, Andreas Persbo attended a preparatory workshop for the November 2010 Washington Forum conference. He gave a presentation on 'nuclear disarmament: opportunities and options'. His talk touched on several potential ways to reenergize work in multilateral bodies. The meeting discussed the possibility for provisional entry into force of the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, whether there are possibilities to negotiate the proposed Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty outside the Conference on Disarmament, and the prospects for further bilateral reductions of nuclear arms levels. The meeting also discussed prospects for the proposed 2012 conference on a WMD free zone in the Middle East.

Mr. Persbo took the opportunity to circulate copies of the centre's latest report on verified warhead dismantlement to the Brussels community.

VERTIC is grateful to the EU Institute for Security Studies, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and Egmont for their kind invitation to attend this meeting.

7 September 2010

Telegraph errata

Damien McElroy writes in yesterday's Telegraph that VERTIC's noted that one can make one nuclear weapon out of 20 kilograms of 19.7 per cent enriched uranium hexafluoride gas. That's not quite the case. In fact, you would need closer to 180 kilograms of 19.7 per cent enriched gas to achieve one significant quantity of weapons grade uranium metal.

What is true, however, is that most separative work has already been invested into the medium-enriched product. It is relatively simple to further enrich medium enriched material into weapons grade.

It is also an overstatement to write that VERTIC has 'privileged access' to the IAEA. We have no more access to the IAEA than any other accredited organization, and are not privy to any restricted documentation.

2 September 2010

VERTIC welcomes new Trustees

VERTIC is pleased to welcome Dr. Ronald Nelson and Dr. Edwina Moreton to the Board of Trustees.

'We are fortunate to be joined by two exceptionally well regarded individuals', said Andreas Persbo, VERTIC's Executive Director. 'They will bring decades of experience and knowledge to our organization and I am very much looking forward to working with them in the future'.

Dr. Ronald Nelson is the serving Director of Administration at the OPCW. Dr. Edwina Moreton was until recently the Diplomatic Editor and Deputy Foreign Editor of the Economist.

Molly Anderson resigned from the Board. 'She will be truly missed', said Mr. Persbo. 'Molly has been serving the organization in various capacities for more than a decade. She has always injected energy and enthusiasm into our discussions'. But she will not fully leave the organization, 'I hope to invite her to the International Verification Consultants Network soon', added Mr. Persbo.

1 September 2010

VERTIC releases report on Verifying Warhead Dismantlement

VERTIC today releases **Verified Warhead Dismantlement: Past, present, future.**

The report is the Centre's independent account of the so-called UK-Norway Initiative: a three-year project to investigate the verification of nuclear warhead dismantlement. The UK-Norway Initiative was the first time a

non-nuclear-weapon state has partnered with a nuclear-weapon one to examine these issues. As such, the initiative broke important new ground, and set what may yet become a strong precedent for future work. VERTIC has been involved as an independent observer to the Initiative from the project's earliest beginnings in 2007.

VERTIC's report seeks to place the UK-Norway Initiative in the wider historical context of past dismantlement exercises and studies—and in so doing draw out the commonalities and differences between those and what the UK and Norway have achieved. 'Remarkably,' said Andreas Persbo, VERTIC's Executive Director and one of the reports three co-authors, 'the UK-Norway Initiative represents only the second time full-scale simulated dismantlement exercises of this kind have been held, the first being in 1960s America, and the only such undertaking of a bilateral nature.'

Nonetheless, after a close examination of past initiatives, VERTIC has found that a number of the conclusions reached following the UK-Norway Initiative's two mock inspection visits last year mirror past findings in striking fashion. 'All inspection exercises have one thing in common,' says the report: 'they all aim to find a balance between the inspector's need for access and the inspected party's need to maintain confidentiality.' The trade-off between inspector confidence and the need for a host party to protect classified information represents a running theme throughout the report.

The Anglo-Norwegian effort was conducted firmly within the technical realm. The programme—which proceeded on two fronts: 'information barrier' technology and managed access methodologies—was 'driven by the goal of finding verification solutions, not verification problems,' said Mr Persbo. Indeed, one of the principal conclusions of the Initiative was that properly managed collaboration between a nuclear and a non-nuclear-weapon state in the field of dismantlement verification can be done without fear of compromising sensitive or proliferative information.

'Scientific collaboration between nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon states in this regard is both an achievable and a sensible goal,' says the report. 'On the one hand, it allows those in the laboratory of the nuclear-weapon state to escape the intellectual confines of their classified environment. And on the other, it allows those among the non-nuclear-weapon states of the world to grasp the many intellectual and practical problems that face those in the weapons camp. On the outside, it allows the public to gain some idea of the many scientific, technical and procedural steps, and obstacles, that lie ahead.'

There will come a time when dismantlement processes will lack sufficient credibility unless signed off by one or a number of non-nuclear-weapon states. As Lord Browne, who wrote the preface to the report, said while UK secretary of defence in 2008, 'it is of paramount importance that verification techniques are developed which enable us all—nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states—to have confidence that when a state says it has fully and irrevocably dismantled a nuclear warhead, we all can be assured it is telling the truth.'

Despite a number of outstanding technical issues highlighted by the Initiative over the course of the last three years, the UK and Norway have together taken a small but important step toward the realisation of the nuclear disarmament agenda, in addition to making a timely standalone contribution to the current state of knowledge. VERTIC has been a proud partner.

Download [Verifying Warhead Dismantlement: Past, present, future](#) (PDF, 502kb)

31 August 2010

VERTIC Senior Researcher co-authors paper on REDD with WRI

VERTIC's Senior Researcher Larry MacFaul has co-authored a Working Paper with the World Resources Institute and the Environmental Investigation Agency on information needed for mechanisms to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). The paper examines what kind of data countries need to gather to develop and implement REDD strategies effectively, and what information could be made available at the international level. It focuses on measures to address illegal logging in Indonesia and Peru, and draws on work carried out for the Chatham House-VERTIC [illegal logging indicators study](#).

World Resources Institute Working Papers contain preliminary research, analysis, findings, and recommendations. They are circulated to stimulate timely discussion and critical feedback and to influence ongoing debate on emerging issues. This paper is particularly aimed at making recommendations for domestic policy makers in forest-rich developing countries and for Parties to the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations, where it has already received interest.

'[Tracking Transformative Forest Actions to Reduce Emissions: An illegal logging case study](#)' by Florence Daviet (WRI), Lauren Goers (WRI), Larry MacFaul (VERTIC), Andrea Johnson (EIAS) and Kirsten Stasio (WRI), WRI Working Paper, World Resources Institute, Washington DC, 2010.

23 August 2010

VERTIC participates in Meeting of Experts to the BWC

The National Implementation Measures Programme team participated in the Meeting of Experts to the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva, during 23 to 27 August. This year's topic is how to handle alleged use of biological weapons, including assistance and preventive measures. VERTIC gave a [statement](#) on the status of the NIM Programme and the services we provide to governments; staff also held several bilateral meetings with intergovernmental and international and regional organisations, as well as with individual governments. Several governments publicly acknowledged our work including Canada, Chile, Georgia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

The NIM Programme team are Angela Woodward, Scott Spence, Rocio Escauriaza Leal, Yasemin Balci and Samir Mechkin. More about the team can be found on our 'Expertise' pages.

20 August 2010

VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer Attends International Law Association Conference in The Hague

Scott Spence, VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer, attended the 74th biennial conference of the International Law Association, which took place in The Hague from 15-19 August. The conference also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Netherlands Association of International Law. The Conference included closed and open sessions of the ILA's 25 Committees and 6 Study Groups, as well as 21 parallel sessions on various subjects including the International Criminal Court, non-state actors, the ICJ advisory opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence, UN reform and the proposed Organisation for the Prohibition of Biological Weapons.

Scott had the opportunity to clarify language for the final report of the International Law on Biotechnology Committee, on the role of the Biological Weapons Convention. He also encouraged the Non-state Actors Committee to expand their remit to include an examination of the role of non-state actors, such as VERTIC, in the substantive field of international arms control and disarmament law. The Committee agreed to consider this proposal.

Scott is a member of the ILA and its Dutch branch and is the National Implementation Measures Programme's Senior Legal Officer. Other members of the team include Angela Woodward, Programme Director; Rocio Escauriaza Leal, Legal Officer; Yasemin Balci, Programme Assistant; and Samir Mechken, WMD Consultant.

5 August 2010

VERTIC Executive Director visits FFI

On 4 August 2010, VERTIC's Executive Director, Andreas Persbo, travelled to Norway to participate in a small meeting on covert nuclear fuel cycles organized by the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment.

23 July 2010

Call for Tenders for New Website

VERTIC is seeking tenders for the redevelopment of our website. This tender process will close Friday, 30 July, 1700 GMT. Please see our [proposal](#).

16 July 2010

CTBT: Prospects for Entry into Force

VERTIC has now released the fourth and penultimate paper in its series on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and its verification regime. This paper, on 'Prospects for Entry Into Force', is written by Jeffrey Lewis, director of the Nuclear Strategy and Non-Proliferation Initiative at the New America Foundation and founder of the highly-regarded Arms Control Wonk online blog.

The paper takes each of the nine remaining 'Annex II' hold-outs—whose ratifications are essential for the CTBT to come into force—in turn, assessing the likelihood of their full assent to the treaty in the coming months and years. Overall, the paper strikes a hopeful tone, noting that even the 'hard cases' of India, Pakistan and North Korea are not lost causes. On the latter, and arguably the hardest case of all, Mr Lewis notes that a breakthrough in US-North Korean relations could 'rapidly result' in North Korean ratification. With regard to the three Middle Eastern Annex II states whose ratifications remain outstanding (Egypt, Iran and Israel), prospects for ratification are 'inexorably entwined with the complexities and nuances of their

regional security situations,' says Mr Lewis. But, he suggests, movement forward on the long-proposed Middle Eastern Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone at the recent review conference of parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty sets an 'encouraging precedent.'

To finish his paper, Mr Lewis argues that, pending full entry into force, CTBT parties might look to begin to apply the treaty on a provisional basis. 'States parties could agree to an operational protocol that outlines the treaty's provisional application,' he proposes. 'And while it would be no substitute for actual entry into force of the treaty, such a protocol would enable the CTBTO to function more fully in the intervening period and help bolster the steadily growing norm against the detonation of nuclear devices.'

The paper is available to download [here](#) (PDF 180kb)

15 July 2010

Illegal Logging and Related Trade: Indicators of the Global Response

Today, Chatham House launched its report 'Illegal Logging and Related Trade: Indicators of the Global Response'. VERTIC senior researcher Larry Macfaul co-wrote the report with Chatham House associate fellow Sam Lawson. The report is the most thorough assessment so far of the global fight against illegal logging. According to the report, the total global production of illegal timber has fallen by 22 per cent since 2002.

The report covers all aspects of the timber trade. It studied five producer countries, two processing countries and five consumer countries. Despite the decline in illegally harvested timber, illegal logging remains a serious problem. "If laid end to end the illegal logs would encircle the globe more than ten times over," said Larry MacFaul.

Speaking at the launch event, held at the Royal Society in London, Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (DFID), said that deforestation still occurs at an 'alarming rate'. The solution, he argued, involves putting in place safeguards in producing countries, but also to change consumer behaviour in importing countries. He highlighted the finding of the report that 'every pound invested in combatting illegal logging results in six pounds of increased revenue'.

His speech was followed by a presentation by Sam Lawson, highlighting the major findings of the report. The launch also featured observations by H.E. Yuri Octavian Thamrin, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Samuel Nguiffo, Secretary General of the Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED) and Andris Piebalgs, Development Commissioner at the European Commission.

Andreas Persbo, VERTIC's Executive Director, said 'Yet again, VERTIC, this time working with Chatham House, has produced groundbreaking work. And while this report shows a remarkable decrease in illegal logging worldwide, much more work remains to be done. While the first task is to ensure that all use of the world's forests are legal, the real challenge ahead is to devise a fair system that encourages and rewards their sustainable use. My thanks to Chatham House, Sam Lawson and Duncan Brack in particular, for involving VERTIC in this important study'.

[Executive summary](#) (PDF, 390kb).

[Full report](#) (PDF, 3.48mb)

12 July 2010

Programme Assistant and Arabic-language consultant join NIM Programme

VERTIC is pleased to announce that Yasemin Balci, a Dutch lawyer, has joined the NIM team as a Programme Assistant. Yasemin will be providing administrative and legal research support to the Programme. Yasemin holds a Bachelor's Degree from University College Utrecht (Utrecht University) and an LL.M. from the University of Cambridge. She was previously a policy officer at Cordaid, an international development NGO in The Hague. She was also a Lantos/Humanity in Action Fellow at the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States House of Representatives. Yasemin holds joint Dutch/Turkish nationality and speaks Dutch, Turkish and English.

We are also pleased to announce that Samir Mechken is consulting with the NIM Programme, with a particular focus on North Africa and the Middle East. Samir previously worked as a Legal Officer in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague.

VERTIC's other NIM team members are: Angela Woodward, Programme Director; Scott Spence, Senior Legal Officer; and Rocío Escauriza Leal, Legal Officer.

30 June 2010

Trust & Verify, April-June 2010, Issue 129

Hugh Chalmers assesses the state of climate change verification after Copenhagen while David Cliff looks back at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Also verification watch, verification quotes, science and technology scan, staff news and a note from the director.

Available for [download](#) (PDF, 388kb)

30 June 2010

Technology and science for nuclear disarmament

On 29 June 2010, Andreas Persbo delivered a presentation on the role of technology and science for nuclear disarmament to about 70 conference participants at Wilton Park's Conference '[Nuclear Salience in Decline?](#)'.

Mr. Persbo called for the revitalization of the IAEA-Russia-US Trilateral Initiative, arguing that 'the US and Russia should agree to publicize already covered work, and open it up for international peer review'. In addition, holding that the 'first three years only scraped the surface of activities that could be undertaken' he urged that 'the UK and Norwegian governments continue to support the UK-Norway Initiative as a core activity'.

He said that 'involving the International Atomic Energy Agency in some capacity is part of the solution' of the problem of involving more states in the verification enterprise.

Jay Davis, President of the Hertz Foundation, and Ola Dahlman, an experienced CTBT veteran, joined him on the panel.

[Technology and science for nuclear disarmament](#) (PDF, 68k); and [accompanying slides](#) (PDF, 120k).

29 June 2010

VERTIC's Sample Act available in Portuguese

VERTIC has published its Sample Act for National Implementation of the BWC and related requirements of UNSCR 1540 in Portuguese for the benefit of all Lusophone countries.

['Lei Modelo para a Implementação Nacional da Convenção de 1972 sobre a Proibição de Armas Biológicas e Tóxicas e Requisitos Relacionados à Resolução 1540 do Conselho de Segurança da ONU'](#)

25 June 2010

Occasional Paper 3: Russia, Ratification and the CTBT's entry into force

Today, VERTIC releases the third in its series of five papers on the CTBT and its verification regime. 'Russia, Ratification and the CTBT's entry into force' is written by Victor Slipchenko, a well known former Russian diplomat and VERTIC advisor.

Mr. Slipchenko was an active participant in trilateral negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban in the late 1970s. During the 1980s, he also attended bilateral talks with the United States on the Verification Protocol to the Threshold Test Ban Treaty. In 1993, Mr. Slipchenko was appointed by the Russian Government as Deputy Chief Negotiator for CTBT in Geneva. In that capacity he had contributed to the elaboration in the Conference on Disarmament of a draft treaty on the subject, while serving as Friend of the Chair on on-site inspections.

The paper argues that Russia can play a significant role in facilitating US ratification of the CTBT by reiterating some of its previous statements on the scope of the treaty. It also argues that Russia can engage in confidence building measures going 'far beyond' the treaty's provisions.

It is available to download [here](#) (PDF 180k).

22 June 2010

VERTIC at Climate Change Talks Bonn, and UN-REDD/Chatham House Expert Workshop, London

Larry MacFaul, Senior Researcher, attended the latest UNFCCC climate change talks in Bonn. The talks ran from 31 May to 11 June 2010 and included the 32nd sessions of the convention's subsidiary bodies, the 10th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, and the 12th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, see meeting [web page](#). VERTIC also liaised with civil society partners on inputting into the negotiations and future work on implementation assistance.

Prior to the Bonn talks, 24-25 May, Larry MacFaul participated in an expert workshop on monitoring governance safeguards in REDD+. The goal of the workshop was to improve understanding of what aspects of governance need to be monitored and how this should be done. The meeting drew on current and past

experiences from the forest and other sectors. The workshop aimed at developing a draft framework of core governance parameters for monitoring and reporting which could inform the negotiations and various REDD processes, and also assist countries preparing REDD strategies. The workshop also sought to improve coordination between existing governance monitoring initiatives and identify how these could be developed. The workshop was run by Chatham House and the UN-REDD programme. See UN-REDD [webpage](#): Global Experts Tackle Monitoring Governance Safeguards for REDD+; Chatham House, UN-REDD Programme and other leading forest governance experts met in London on 24-25 May to develop the basis for a coherent framework and guidance on monitoring governance for REDD Affairs. Chatham House [webpage](#): Monitoring Governance Safeguards in REDD+ Expert Workshop.

9 June 2010

VERTIC Executive Director presents at ILA Sweden AGM

Andreas Persbo travelled to Sweden over the day to present at the annual general meeting of the Swedish Branch of the International Law Association. He was asked to offer thoughts on whether the 2010 NPT Review Conference could be seen as a breakthrough in the disarmament question. The other presenter was Christer Ahlstrom, director of disarmament and international security at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In attendance were several notable personalities from the Swedish arms control and disarmament community: Professor Ove Bring, former Professor of International Law at Stockholm University; Dr Hans Blix, former Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); and Mr Daniel Nord, Deputy Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Mr Persbo ended his talk by stressing the importance of keeping up the momentum on the disarmament question, in a situation where there is increasing political will but dwindling funds. If little progress are made on the action plans by 2015, he said, 'the next review conference will be exceptionally difficult'.

8 June 2010

VERTIC participates in OPCW seminar

Angela Woodward, NIM Programme Director, participated in the OPCW seminar "The OPCW's Contribution to the International Security Dimension: Achievements and Challenges", in Berlin, 7-8 June 2010. The seminar aimed to promote the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention by assessing, in conjunction with major international stakeholders, both the achievements of the Organisation and the challenges that lie ahead. These stakeholders included States Parties to the Convention, States not Party, the United Nations, the chemical industry, scientific and academic institutions, think tanks, non governmental organisations (NGOs), and other relevant international and regional organisations.

In addition to assisting States with their national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention through laws and regulations, VERTIC has also undertaken assistance activities with States, at their request, on drafting legislation to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention. More information about this Programme, is available at www.vertic.org/NIM or from Programme staff (Angela Woodward, Programme Director; Scott Spence, Senior Legal Officer; Rocío Escauriaza Leal, Legal Officer).

7 June 2010

VERTIC a 'great partner' in efforts to strengthen the CWC

The Director-General of the OPCW, Rogelio Pflirter, gave his [farewell speech](#) to a group of diplomats and officials at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations "Clingendael" on 3 June.

In an exchange with the British ambassador, H.E. Mr Paul Arkwright, Pflirter agreed that VERTIC is a 'great partner' with the OPCW in its efforts to strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention. VERTIC welcomes this public acknowledgement of the importance of engagement by international disarmament organisations with civil society actors, and their contributions to ensuring that the world is safer from the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Under its National Implementing Measures Programme, VERTIC works with States on improving their legislative frameworks for implementation of the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons treaties. Such assistance has, amongst other things, included hosting a high-level delegation in London to draft legislation for the implementation of the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions in that country's official language.

NIM Programme staff are Angela Woodward, Programme Director; Scott Spence, Senior Legal Officer; and Rocío Escauriaza Leal, Legal Officer.

1 June 2010

VERTIC Executive Director published in UNIDIR book

In May, UNIDIR released its book '[A Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty: Understanding the Critical Issues](#)' (PDF, 2.09Mb). The book features contributions from authors such as the International Panel on Fissile Materials, Anette Shaper, Harold A. Feiveson, Bruno Pellaud and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In his chapter, Mr. Persbo argued that, 'few weapon states would consider a treaty that encompasses reductions in stocks. Rather, the idea is to formalize the 20-year-old fissile material production moratoria already in effect among the P-5 and to introduce a legally binding moratorium in South Asia and the Middle East'.

He also held that, 'Given the large uncertainties in historical production in some weapon states, it will be near impossible to establish baseline inventories of nuclear material. There will not be any meaningful way, consequently, to monitor changes in state inventories of fissile material. This means that a fullscope verification regime will yield few benefits on the margin'.

Discussing the so-called focussed approach, he argued that 'this low-assurance verification scheme will by no means be foolproof, but given the object and purpose of an FMCT, it may be viewed as sufficient'.

VERTIC promotes effective and efficient verification schemes. Its views on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty is still under review. The chapter is therefore written in Mr. Persbo's personal capacity.

28 May 2010

UK-Norway Initiative gets Review Conference mention

On 28 May 2010, the NPT review conference agreed on a final document. This was the first consensus in ten years. The conference 'welcomed efforts towards the development of nuclear disarmament verification capabilities', in recognition that technical cooperation can, and in fact does, strengthen progress towards the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. In this context, it noted 'the cooperation between Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in establishing a system for nuclear warhead dismantlement verification'.

VERTIC has been involved in this effort as a non-governmental observer since 2007.

'Achieving consensus at the conference was a great step forward', said Andreas Persbo, VERTIC's Executive Director. 'And I am glad that VERTIC could play a small part in laying the groundwork for a successful outcome'.

'We're also pleased that the document supports the Additional Protocol as the enhanced verification standard', said Mr Persbo, 'and also that the conference welcomes the IAEA's development of an information driven safeguards system. This will enable the Agency to continue its work on setting up safeguards that can give assurance that declared nuclear material remains in peaceful use. It will also build regime that gives assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities'.

VERTIC were in New York during three weeks. Hassan EIBAhtimy, VERTIC researcher, who followed the conference closely, said 'in addition, agreeing on an action plan that would chart the way towards the implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution is a significant achievement. It is important to note that the conference recognized the important role played by civil society in contributing to the implementation of the resolution.'

The action plans now need to be implemented, and VERTIC is looking forward to playing its part in achieving further progress in 2015.

VERTIC's work on the NPT review cycle has been funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the Joseph-Rowntree Charitable Trust, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Radiological Protection Authority and the UK Ministry of Defence.

27 May 2010

VERTIC researchers in Pugwash briefing book

Andreas Persbo and Hassan EIBAhtimy contributed with two chapters to 'Perspectives for Progress: the 2010 NPT Review Conference and Beyond', a briefing book project led by the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. The book includes commentary by Mohamed Shaker, Gen. Sir Hugh Beach (a VERTIC trustee), Sverre Lodgaard, Jayantha Dhanapala and Rebecca Johnson.

The VERTIC contributed sections are:

The case for a stronger safeguards regime (by Andreas Persbo); and

Verifying nuclear warhead dismantlement (by Hassan EIBAhtimy).

The book is [accessible on-line](#) (PDF, 1.39Mb)

14 May 2010

VERTIC participates in bioincident response workshop in Georgia

Scott Spence, VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer, participated in the Southern Caucasus Workshop "Public Health, Security, and Law Enforcement Partnership in Bio-Incident Pre-Planning and Response", in Tbilisi, Georgia during 11-12 May. Topics included Public Health Security: A Multi-Layered System of Defense (internationally and regionally) and Epidemiological Surveillance and Investigation. The participants also worked through a bioincident scenario during a tabletop exercise. VERTIC gave presentations on its National Implementation Measures Programme and legislation to implement the BWC and UNSCR 1540. Scott also took the opportunity while in Georgia to meet with senior Georgian officials whose duties relate to biological and chemical weapons non-proliferation.

14 May 2010

Uganda NAS releases report on biosecurity and biosafety

The Uganda National Academy of Sciences recently released the report "The Scope of Biosafety and Biosecurity in Uganda: Policy Recommendations for the Control of Associated Risks". VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer, Scott Spence, served as a consultant to the committee which prepared the report for the Ugandan government. He contributed, in particular, to the sections on national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and UNSCR 1540 in Uganda and the chapters going into detail on the distinctions among 'biosafety' and 'biosecurity' in the laboratory security and genetically modified organisms (GMO) contexts.

[The UNAS report](#)

13 May 2010

VERTIC delivers statement on verified nuclear disarmament

Today, VERTIC's Executive Director Andreas Persbo delivered a ten-minute presentation to the UK-Norway Initiative side event at the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York. As part of the presentation, Mr Persbo highlighted VERTIC's role as an independent observer to the Initiative since early consultations were held in 2006, and looked ahead to the forthcoming publication of a VERTIC report on the project—the release of which is expected by the end of this September.

Addressing delegates at UN Headquarters, he related the Initiative's three principal conclusions—namely, the "deceptively simple" nature of this kind of cooperative endeavour, the need for practical exercises to explore and test verification choices, and the "fundamental" role of trust and confidence in nuclear disarmament verification processes—while seeking to dispel any fears surrounding the potential release of proliferation-sensitive information. Scientific collaboration between nuclear and non-nuclear states in the field of disarmament verification was both an "achievable and sensible" goal, said Mr Persbo. "It allows those in the laboratory of the nuclear-weapon state to escape the intellectual confines of their classified environment. And on the other side, it allows those in the non-nuclear-weapon state to grasp the many intellectual and practical problems that face those in the weapons camp."

On what the future holds for UK-Norwegian collaborative efforts, internal discussions on how to proceed have already been initiated, Mr Persbo announced—including discussions on the feasibility of holding experiments on British territory, "using more complex and real materials, and more realistic environments." Crucially, he said: "At VERTIC, it is our conclusion that in spite of several practical problems encountered during the project, there is nothing to suggest that the verification of warhead dismantlement is not technically feasible. And nothing to suggest that we cannot keep dismantlement verification within acceptable levels of tolerance."

Regardless of the outcome of future discussions, from what has gone before it is VERTIC's "conviction that other states can learn and benefit greatly from what the UK and Norway have achieved," he declared. For this reason, Mr Persbo said, "VERTIC gives its commitment to continue to document and promote this Initiative in the years ahead."

VERTIC's attendance at the Review Conference is funded by the Ford Foundation, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Radiological Protection Authority.

[Presentation](#)

12 May 2010

UK-Norway Initiative Presentation in New York

On Thursday May 13, Norway and the UK are presenting work on their joint initiative to the 2010 NPT Review Conference. VERTIC will deliver a statement at the end of the presentation.

The UKNI is a unique collaboration between a Nuclear Weapon State (UK) and a Non-Nuclear Weapon State (Norway). It is the first joint work of this nature in this field of research. Confidence building and transparency measures, including verification, will be critical to moving towards a world free from nuclear weapons. This poses significant technical, financial and policy challenges. The project was designed to develop new technologies, methods and procedures for the verification of future dismantlement.

What: Presentation of the NPT Working Paper 'The United Kingdom-Norway Initiative: Research into the Verification of Nuclear Warhead Dismantlement'

When: Thursday May 13 at 13:15-14:45

Where: Conference Room 2 (TNLB), United Nations headquarters, New York

With introductory remarks from Ambassador Steffen Kongstad, Director-General of the Department for Security Policy at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Norwegian NPT delegation and Ambassador John Duncan, Permanent Representative to the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva and Head of the UK NPT delegation.

VERTIC's presentation will be delivered by Andreas Persbo, Executive Director.

VERTIC's work on the initiative is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation and Norwegian Radiological Protection Authority.

23 April 2010

VERTIC Brief No. 10, 'Towards a verified nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East'

This paper outlines the need for a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East, and discusses its relevance for the 2010 NPT review conference. It is written by two Middle Eastern scholars.

Sameh Aboul-Enein is an Egyptian scholar and diplomat. He holds an MSc and a PhD in International Relations and the Middle East and has published a number of articles on disarmament issues. He is currently a visiting lecturer on disarmament (University of Westminster) and a member of a multilateral study group on Missiles (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt). He is an alumnus of the School of Oriental and African Studies and this article forms part of his post-doctoral research. He contributed these views solely in his academic and personal capacity. Hassan Elbahtimy is a researcher at VERTIC. He is also a PhD candidate and a research associate at the Centre for Science and Security Studies at the War Studies Department, Kings College, London

It is available to download [here](#) (PDF 132k).

1 April 2010

Trust and Verify, January-March 2010, issue No. 128

The new issue is now available and can be accessed [here](#).

In this issue, David Cliff raises issues for consideration in the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Angela Woodward discusses biological and chemical terrorism and Joy Hyvarinen looks beyond the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. Plus Verification Watch, Science and Technology Scan and VERTIC News and Events.

30 March 2010

VERTIC Executive Director presents to Wilton Park

On 29 and 30 March, Andreas Persbo travelled to Wilton Park to participate in a two day conference on the 'Verified Dismantlement of Strategic Missiles'.

Paper: '[Verifying missile accords](#)' (pdf, 102k); and accompanying presentation: '[Verifying missile accords](#)' (pdf, 150k)

25 March 2010

VERTIC assists with capacity building workshop in Nigeria on climate change

VERTIC provided assistance for a two day capacity building workshop for government officials on the climate change negotiations on 24 and 25 March.

The workshop was lead by FIELD and involved the High Commission, UNDP, ECBI and was funded by DFID's Policy and Knowledge Programme (PAK). It received very positive feedback from the participants. This workshop was preceded by a similar exercise for Masters students at SOAS, London.

During the workshop, Larry MacFaul delivered a presentation on climate change mitigation focusing on MRV issues, and helped with other workshop sessions including exploring climate change priorities for Nigeria and a negotiation simulation exercise.

Presentation: '[MRV and mitigation in the climate change regime](#)' (pdf, 163k)

25 March 2010

VERTIC Executive Director participates in JRCT Trustees Conference

On 25 March, Andreas Persbo joined several other non-governmental organizations for a one day conference organized by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT). The aim of the meeting was to gather ideas for the Trust's future grantmaking strategy.

24 March 2010

VERTIC Executive Director presents to FIELD on challenges and opportunities in the international environmental decision making system following Copenhagen.

On 24 March 2010, Andreas Persbo delivered a presentation to a workshop organized to the Foundation for International Law and Development. The presentation touched on international climate change negotiations from an arms control perspective.

Paper: '[International negotiations: an arms control perspective](#)' (pdf, 79k)'

23 March 2010

VERTIC participates in UK-Norway Meeting

On 22 and 23 March, VERTIC's Executive Director joined the UK-Norway participants for a meeting at AWE Blacknest. The participants discussed the forthcoming presentation on the initiative, to be held in New York on 13 May 2010.

8 March 2010

VERTIC Executive Director presents at the 2010 Moscow Nonproliferation Conference

On 4-7 March 2010, Andreas Persbo travelled to Moscow to participate in the 2010 Moscow Nonproliferation Conference, organized by the Center for Energy and Security Studies in Moscow, Russia.

About 140 experts from think-tanks around the world, as well as governmental officials and specialists from international organizations took part in the Conference. Among the speakers who confirmed their participation in the event are representatives of Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States.

Andreas Persbo's presentation was entitled '[Defining a Treaty on the Production of Weapons Usable Fissile Material](#)' (PDF, 45k)

4 March 2010

UNODA Paper on ways to strengthen the field of verification

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has released Occasional Paper No. 18, '[Ways to Strengthen the Field of Verification](#)' (PDF, 1.53MB).

Features presentations made at the fifty-first session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters held from 18 to 20 February 2009 in New York.

Former VERTIC Science & Technology Researcher, James Acton, now an Associate in the Non-Proliferation Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, made a presentation entitled "Verifying zero: long-term aims, short-term steps".

Andreas Persbo, VERTIC's Executive Director spoke of "Nuclear arms control in the 2010s—verification challenges".

22 February 2010

VERTIC's Board appoints Andreas Persbo as new Executive Director

VERTIC's Board of Trustees appointed Andreas Persbo as VERTIC's Executive Director at the Annual General Meeting.

Andreas, who has been with the organization since 2004, has extensive experience in international arms control and disarmament, specifically in the area of nuclear arms control. He is also a member of the International Law Association and the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Former Executive Directors include Patricia Lewis, Trevor Findley, Michael Crowley and VERTIC's NIM Programme Director Angela Woodward.

19 February 2010

VERTIC Participates in Biosafety and Biosecurity Conference in Kiev

VERTIC's Legal Officer, Rocío Escauriaza Leal, participated in the International Conference "Biosafety and Biosecurity: Implementing the Recommendations of the States Parties Meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention" held in Kiev, Ukraine from 15 to 17 February. The Conference was organized by the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Commission on Biosafety and Biosecurity of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine. The conference was also sponsored by the Government of Canada, through the Global Partnership Program.

The aim of the Conference was to spread knowledge on the biosafety and biosecurity concepts among holders of potential dual-use knowledge – professionals selected from the leading institutions of Ukraine, involved in life sciences and medicine research, education and related industry.

Rocío presented on the legislative requirements to implement the BWC including biosafety and biosecurity measures; and on VERTIC's NIM Programme.

9 February 2010

VERTIC Participates in Africa Regional Workshop on Biosafety and Biosecurity

VERTIC's Senior Legal Officer, Scott Spence, participated in the "Africa Regional Workshop on Biosafety and Biosecurity", during 2-4 February in Nairobi. The event was hosted by the Government of Kenya, with support from the UN 1540 Committee, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the United States Government. Topics of discussion included:

Biological Risk Management for the African Continent

UNSCR 1540: Ways and Means for Implementation and Technical Assistance

Global Management of Biological Risks: Interlinked Array of Tools

Think Globally, Secure Locally: National Frameworks for Safeguarding Biological Agents

International Approaches to UNSCR 1540 Implementation

The Role of Professional Organizations in 1540 Implementation

There were bilateral discussions between VERTIC and other assistance providers and coordinators and the 20 participating countries from all regions in Africa. The conference participants also toured the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and Centers for Disease Control Global Disease Detection (GDD) Response Center and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

Scott's presentation was on "National Implementing Measures for Effective Biosafety and Biosecurity & VERTIC's National Implementing Measures (NIM) Programme".

5 February 2010

VERTIC Executive Director presents to INMM

On 3 February, Andreas Persbo delivered the presentation '[Article VI verification and NWS-NNWS cooperation](#)' to the Fourth Annual Workshop on Reducing the Risks from Radioactive and Nuclear Materials. His panel also featured Jay Davis of the Hertz Foundation and George Anzelon of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Former VERTIC-director Patricia Lewis, now with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, chaired the meeting.

The presentation announced the start of work on the *Report of the Independent Observer*, VERTIC's independent write-up of progress made under the UK-Norway Initiative. This work will be funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Our work on nuclear disarmament is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ford Foundation.

25 January 2010

VERTIC presents on initial results of full phase illegal logging project, across 12 countries

[15th Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation](#): Chatham House, London, 20th-21st January: Larry MacFaul, along with Sam Lawson, presented on initial results from the full phase of the Chatham

House project on measuring progress on tackling illegal logging. The presentation focused on preliminary analysis from across the 12 countries studied, a discussion of the current status of the project and future options for its development. Larry and Sam spoke in front of some 150-200 participants. The meeting was opened by Hilary Benn, UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The agenda included updates on the FLEGT initiative; draft 'due diligence' regulation; REDD discussions; public procurement policies; development of systems of indicators of progress in dealing with illegal logging; and forest governance and transparency among other issues. On the following day, VERTIC also participated in the Chatham House-RRI Dialogue on Forests, Governance and Climate Change No. 3 which examined perspectives on the Copenhagen climate change conference; tenure and governance to fight deforestation and promote restoration, and REDD and forest governance.

25 January 2010

VERTIC programme director discusses the Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition on GSN

On 22 January, Angela Woodward discussed the newly formed Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition on Global Security Newswire (see also What's New, 4 December 2009). She said that the 'CWC is often considered to be the most successful of the WMD treaties, and arguably that is the case but there remain certain significant problems with the convention which states parties have utterly failed to deal with, such as noncompliance issues (like 'nonlethal weapons') or instigating the on-site inspection mechanism'. The coalition expects to have three to four part-time employees and an annual budget of between \$250k and \$300k. 'I'm feeling positive,' Woodward stated. 'The CWCC members will be encouraged and supported to work towards the coalition's goals. Some will be easier to achieve than others. But at the very least, the activities of those NGOs who are already working in support of the CWC can be amplified through membership of a coalition -- the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts'.

19 January 2010

VERTIC makes a donation to the ICRC

On the initiative of its staff, VERTIC has today donated about three percent of its remaining unrestricted funds to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The donation will go to medical aid for survivors of the 12 January 2010 earthquake and support for efforts to recover and identify the dead.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) relies on everyone's commitment to the humanitarian cause and its underlying values. The strongest possible support from individuals, companies and foundations is essential if we are to meet the challenges we are currently facing. Your support to ICRC is more than just a donation - it is a true act of humanity. Thank you".

- Jakob Kellenberger, President of the ICRC

Please join us and make a donation today.

18 January 2010

VERTIC Executive Director lectures at ISODARCO 2010

On 13-15 January, Andreas Persbo travelled to Andalo, Italy, to lecture at the 23d ISODARCO Winter Course.

ISODARCO is associated with the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. Its purpose is to bring together those with a great variety of experiences and approaches relating to security problems. Their discussions focus on commissioned expert papers.

Andreas' presentation can be downloaded here (Quicktime, 297MB), left-click to progress through slides.

You need high-speed broadband access to download in reasonable time.

Stills and movie clips were provided courtesy of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Colbert Report, Comedy Central. Some images shot by VERTIC researchers at the Semipalatinsk Test Site, Kazakhstan.

Our work on the CTBTO is funded by the Ploughshares Fund and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

13 January 2010

VERTIC takes part in Norway meeting

On 11-13 January 2010, VERTIC took part in a UK-Norway Initiative meeting on the forthcoming Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Its staff provided advice on a working paper currently being drafted by the two countries.

VERTIC is seeking funding for its participation in the UK-Norway Initiative. The Norwegian Radiological Protection Authority (NRPA) paid for travel and accommodation.

7 January 2010

Ethos article now online

Ethos Magazine has just finished their new website, and have put their most recent articles online, including Andreas Persbo's article '[How can states verify nuclear disarmament?](#)' The same edition also features a commentary by Chatham House's Paul Kornish.

Ethos aims to provide a space in which issues relevant to public service reform can be discussed and debated. The publication will feature the key international policy debates affecting public services with contributions from well known and respected journalists, academics, policymakers and politicians from around the world.

Ethos is published on behalf of Serco Group plc.