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## Countdown to CWC Entry Into Force

On 31 October Hungary deposited its instrument of ratification to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), becoming the 65th state to do so.

Article XXI.1 of the CWC states that the Convention 'shall enter into force 180 days after the date of the deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature'.

As the CWC was opened for signature in 1993, it will enter into force on 29 April 1997.

The fifteenth and final meeting of the Preparatory Commission will be held in the Hague during 16–20 December. Arrangements are still being made for the first Conference of the States Parties; it is likely to meet for two to three weeks, starting on 6 May 1997.

Inspector training for Training Group A will commence on 13 January 1997 and will end on 30 May 1997. Training Group A contains 159 inspector-candidates from 58 states. Training will take place in China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

### CW possessor states

Concern has been raised that the two states with declared CW stockpiles — the United States and Russia — may not be parties at the Convention's entry into force. The fear is that this will weaken the regime.

However, as states that are parties at entry into force will have a far greater influence on the future of the international verification body — the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) — there is a tremendous political incentive to accelerate ratification processes.

### UK implementation

On 3 August 1996, the President of the Board of Trade, the UK national Authority, made the *Chemical Weapons Act 1996 (Commencement) Order 1996* which brought the provisions of the *Chemical Weapons Act 1996* into force on 16 September.

An interim licensing system for the production of Schedule 1 chemicals has now been established, with a more detailed system of licences being brought in for 31 December.

## Non-Proliferation Treaty Accessions

On 14 October 1996 Angola deposited an instrument of accession to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Two days later, Djibouti did the same.

In addition, Oman has recently indicated that, following the requisite domestic procedures, it too, will soon accede to the NPT.

This means (1) that all states within the area covered by the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free

Zone (Treaty of Pelindaba) are now parties to the NPT and (2) that, once Oman accedes to the NPT, the only state within the area of the proposed Middle East Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction that is not an NPT party will be Israel.

The only states not parties to the NPT are: Brazil, Cook Islands, Cuba, India, Israel, Niue, Oman (see above) and Pakistan.

## CTBT Preparatory Commission

On 19 November the final version of the text establishing the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom) for the CTBT Organization was approved by the signatory states by consensus.

On 20 November the first PrepCom meeting was opened in New York with Ambassador JS Selebi (South Africa) in the chair.

The expected appointment of Ambassador Wolfgang Hoffmann (Germany) as Executive

Secretary of the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the CTBTO was not agreed owing to disagreement over other PTS appointments.

The issue of PTS appointments is closely linked to regional and financial questions.

The meeting concluded on 22 November without any substantive decisions being taken. The next PrepCom meeting is now scheduled for 3–11 March 1997 in Geneva.



## United Nations General Assembly

### Committees — Background

The committees of the Fifty-first session of the General Assembly have been meeting in recent weeks to give detailed scrutiny of the subjects within their remit.

Draft resolutions prepared by the committees will be discussed by the General Assembly meeting in plenary in due course.

### First Committee

The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) met from 14 October and discussed a variety of disarmament measures.

On biological weapons, the committee passed by consensus a draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.2) calling on the General Assembly to supply such services as may be required for implementation of decisions taken at the forthcoming BWC Review Conference and calling on states not yet party to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention. [There are a number of states that have signed, but not yet ratified, the BWC — ed.]

As the United Nations has no status in relation to the BWC, the Convention's depositaries being Russia, UK and USA, the resolution is required to allow UN resources to be used.

On chemical weapons, the committee passed by consensus a draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.48/Rev1) which notes the importance of having the two declared CW-possessor states as party to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention as it enters into force. A second draft resolution on the subject, L.49, was withdrawn by Iran, its sponsor, following revision of L.48.

On the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits use of chemical and biological weapons, the committee approved a draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.41) on a vote of 132 in favour, with none against and 10 abstentions. As well as calling for states to observe the provisions of the protocol and to withdraw any reservations to it they may have, the draft calls for the UN Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly in its 53rd session on the subject.

On the proposed Special Session of the General Assembly on disarmament issues, the committee approved a draft resolution (A/C.1/51/L.11/Rev2) calling for it to be held in 1999. The draft was approved on a vote of 137 votes in favour, with 2

votes (Israel and United States) against and 1 abstention (Russia).

Russia, one of the abstainers, is curiously, one of the states likely to be charged by the Sixth Committee (see below) to encourage events to mark the centenary of the first International Peace Conference, which will be in 1999.

A draft resolution expressing appreciation for the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (A/C.1/51/L.37) was passed with 87 votes in favour, 22 against, with 29 abstentions.

Other draft resolutions passed include (not all were passed by consensus):

- support for the 2000 NPT Review Conference (L.3);
- support for nuclear-weapon-free zones in: southern hemisphere (L.4), South Asia (L.6), Latin America (L.9), Africa (L.23), and the Middle East (L.28/Rev.2); and
- support for the UN arms register (L.18).

### Fourth Committee

The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) discussed a report from the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.

The Committee adopted a draft resolution (A/C.4/51/L.3/Rev.1) asking the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to continue its support for the Scientific Committee.

The representative of the Marshall Islands reminded the Committee that 66 nuclear tests had been carried out in his country while it had Trusteeship status. This was more than just of historical interest, he said, as the effects on the islands were long-lasting.

There were also calls, notably from Egypt and Libya, for nuclear facilities in Israel to be placed under IAEA safeguards.

### Fifth Committee

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has been debating the proposed medium-term plan for the whole of the United Nations Organization which covers the period 1998–2001.

The plan contains 25 programmes, many of which overlap:

- 1 — Political affairs
- 2 — Peace-keeping operations

- 3 — Outer space affairs
- 4 — Legal affairs
- 5 — Policy coordination and sustainable development
- 6 — Africa: New Agenda for Development
- 7 — Economic and social information and policy analysis
- 8 — Development support and management services
- 9 — Trade and development
- 10 — Environment
- 11 — Human settlements
- 12 — Crime prevention and criminal justice
- 13 — International drug control
- 14 — Economic and social development in Africa
- 15 — Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
- 16 — Economic development in Europe
- 17 — Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 18 — Economic and social development in Western Asia
- 19 — Human rights
- 20 — Humanitarian assistance
- 21 — Protection and assistance to refugees
- 22 — Palestine refugees
- 23 — Public information
- 24 — Administrative services
- 25 — Internal oversight

During the debate on the plan there were calls that disarmament, which is a sub-programme of programme 1, should be given a 'separate and distinct programme'. Some states, particularly those of the G-77, called for nuclear disarmament to be given a greater priority.

### Sixth Committee

Among items on the agenda of the Sixth Committee (Legal) is a proposal, contained in draft resolution A/C.6/51/L.13, to disseminate information on the provisions of treaties over the internet.

This has been seen as particularly valuable for states which find the costs of subscribing to the United Nations series of bound volumes of treaties prohibitively high. The volumes contain all treaties registered with the UN, including bilateral ones.



## CWC Signatures and Ratifications

- Afghanistan signed 14 January 1993
- Albania signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 11 May 1994
- Algeria signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 14 August 1995
- Argentina signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 2 October 1995
- Armenia signed 19 March 1993 and ratified 27 January 1995
- Australia signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 6 May 1994
- Austria signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 17 August 1995
- Azerbaijan signed 13 January 1993
- Bahamas signed 2 March 1994
- Bahrain signed 24 February 1993
- Bangladesh signed 14 January 1993
- Belarus signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 11 July 1996
- Belgium signed 13 January 1993
- Benin signed 14 January 1993
- Bolivia signed 14 January 1993
- Brazil signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 13 March 1996
- Brunei Darussalam signed 13 January 1993
- Bulgaria signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 10 August 1994
- Burkina Faso signed 14 January 1993
- Burundi signed 15 January 1993
- Cambodia signed 15 January 1993
- Cameroon signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 16 September 1996
- Canada signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 26 September 1995
- Cape Verde signed 15 January 1993
- Central African Republic signed 14 January 1993
- Chad signed 11 October 1994
- Chile signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 11 July 1996
- China signed 13 January 1993
- Colombia signed 13 January 1993
- Comoros signed 13 January 1993
- Congo signed 15 January 1993
- Cook Islands signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 15 July 1994
- Costa Rica signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 31 May 1996
- Côte d'Ivoire signed 13 January 1993
- Croatia signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 25 May 1995
- Cuba signed 13 January 1993
- Cyprus signed 13 January 1993
- Czech Republic signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 6 March 1996
- Denmark signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 13 July 1995
- Djibouti signed 28 September 1993
- Dominica signed 2 August 1993
- Dominican Republic signed 13 January 1993
- Ecuador signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 6 September 1995
- El Salvador signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 30 October 1995
- Equatorial Guinea signed 14 January 1993
- Estonia signed 14 January 1993
- Ethiopia signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 13 May 1996
- Fiji signed 20 January 1993 and ratified 20 January 1993
- Finland signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 7 February 1995
- France signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 2 March 1995
- Gabon signed 13 January 1993
- Gambia signed 13 January 1993
- Georgia signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 27 November 1995
- Germany signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 12 August 1994
- Ghana signed 14 January 1993
- Greece signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 22 December 1994
- Guatemala signed 14 January 1993
- Guinea signed 14 January 1993
- Guinea-Bissau signed 14 January 1993
- Guyana signed 6 October 1993
- Haiti signed 14 January 1993
- Holy See signed 14 January 1993
- Honduras signed 13 January 1993
- Hungary signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 31 October 1996
- Iceland signed 13 January 1993
- India signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 3 September 1996
- Indonesia signed 13 January 1993
- Iran signed 13 January 1993
- Ireland signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 24 June 1996
- Israel signed 13 January 1993
- Italy signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 8 December 1995
- Japan signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 15 September 1995
- Kazakhstan signed 14 January 1993
- Kenya signed 15 January 1993
- Kuwait signed 27 January 1993
- Kyrgyzstan signed 22 February 1993
- Lao People's Democratic Republic signed 12 May 1993
- Latvia signed 6 May 1993 and ratified 23 July 1996
- Lesotho signed 7 December 1994 and ratified 7 December 1994
- Liberia signed 15 January 1993
- Liechtenstein signed 21 July 1993
- Lithuania signed 13 January 1993
- Luxembourg signed 13 January 1993
- Madagascar signed 15 January 1993
- Malawi signed 14 January 1993
- Malaysia signed 13 January 1993
- Maldives signed 1 October 1993 and ratified 31 May 1994
- Mali signed 13 January 1993
- Malta signed 13 January 1993
- Marshall Islands signed 13 January 1993
- Mauritania signed 13 January 1993
- Mauritius signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 9 February 1993
- Mexico signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 29 August 1994
- Micronesia (Federated States of) signed 13 January 1993
- Monaco signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 1 June 1995
- Mongolia signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 17 January 1995
- Morocco signed 13 January 1993
- Myanmar signed 14 January 1993
- Namibia signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 27 November 1995
- Nauru signed 13 January 1993
- Nepal signed 19 January 1993
- Netherlands signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 30 June 1995
- New Zealand signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 15 July 1996
- Nicaragua signed 9 March 1993
- Niger signed 14 January 1993
- Nigeria signed 13 January 1993
- Norway signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 7 April 1994
- Oman signed 2 February 1993 and ratified 8 February 1995
- Pakistan signed 13 January 1993
- Panama signed 16 June 1993
- Papua New Guinea signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 17 April 1996
- Paraguay signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 1 December 1994
- Peru signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 20 July 1995
- Philippines signed 13 January 1993
- Poland signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 23 August 1995
- Portugal signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 10 September 1996
- Qatar signed 1 February 1993
- Republic of Korea signed 14 January 1993
- Republic of Moldova signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 8 July 1996
- Romania signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 15 February 1995
- Russian Federation signed 13 January 1993
- Rwanda signed 17 May 1993
- Saint Kitts and Nevis signed 16 March 1994
- Saint Lucia signed 29 March 1993
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines signed 20 September 1993
- Samoa signed 14 January 1993
- San Marino signed 13 January 1993
- Saudi Arabia signed 20 January 1993 and ratified 9 August 1996
- Senegal signed 13 January 1993
- Seychelles signed 15 January 1993 and ratified 7 April 1993
- Sierra Leone signed 15 January 1993
- Singapore signed 14 January 1993
- Slovak Republic signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 27 October 1995
- Slovenia signed 14 January 1993
- South Africa signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 13 September 1995
- Spain signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 3 August 1994
- Sri Lanka signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 19 August 1994
- Swaziland signed 23 September 1993
- Sweden signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 17 June 1993
- Switzerland signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 10 March 1995
- Tajikistan signed 14 January 1993 and ratified 11 January 1995
- Thailand signed 14 January 1993
- Togo signed 13 January 1993
- Tunisia signed 13 January 1993
- Turkey signed 14 January 1993
- Turkmenistan signed 12 October 1993 and ratified 29 September 1994
- Uganda signed 14 January 1993
- Ukraine signed 13 January 1993
- United Arab Emirates signed 2 February 1993
- United Kingdom signed 13 January 1993 and ratified 13 May 1996
- United Republic of Tanzania signed 25 February 1994
- United States of America signed 13 January 1993
- Uruguay signed 15 January 1993 and ratified 6 October 1994
- Uzbekistan signed 24 November 1995 and ratified 23 July 1996
- Venezuela signed 14 January 1993
- Viet Nam signed 13 January 1993
- Yemen signed 8 February 1993
- Zaire signed 14 January 1993
- Zambia signed 13 January 1993
- Zimbabwe signed 13 January 1993



The draft resolution also invites other international organizations and states that have depositary functions to take similar measures.

On 15–21 September, 18 signatory states of the Treaty on Open Skies took part in a mock certification exercise at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, USA.

Participants from 18 states, including Belarus, Russia and Ukraine — the key states that have not yet ratified

The Sixth Committee also had before it a proposal, contained in A/C.6/51/L.6/Rev.1, that the centenary of the first International Peace

Conference, held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in 1899 on the initiative of Russia, be marked by a programme of action.

### Open Skies exercise

the treaty, took part in the exercise to test certification procedures.

The aim of the exercise was to find the most efficient means by which measurements may be taken to decide the operational altitude that will give the 30-cm resolution established in the treaty. Different equipment types need different altitudes.

Agreed arrangements for calibration will assist in ease of operations once the Treaty enters into force.

The results of the exercise have been fed back into the technical discussions taking place in Vienna to prepare a manual on operating procedures.

### New e-mail addresses

Following a computer upgrade in the VERTIC office a new electronic mail system has been introduced.

The following new addresses are now in operation:

- general enquiries — info@vertic.org
- Patricia Lewis — pml@vertic.org
- John Lanchbery — jfl@vertic.org

### VERTIC News

- Dennis Sammut — ds@vertic.org or media@vertic.org.ge
- Suzanna van Moyland — svm@vertic.org

Further addresses will be added as the system is developed.

For the time being, e-mail messages sent to the old addresses will still be received.

The address for the editor of *Trust & Verify* remains vertictv@gn.apc.org.

### New (old) office address

VERTIC remains at Carrara House, although we will shortly be moving to the second floor. Telephone and fax numbers remain unchanged.

All *Trust & Verify* readers are welcome to make appointments to use VERTIC's library facilities.

#### **Trust & Verify**

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VERTIC is the major source of information on verification for scientists, policy makers and the press.

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