

## VERIFICATION RESEARCH, TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTRE

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### NIM Programme objectives

VERTIC's National Implementation Measures (NIM) Programme, established in 2008, provides tailored advice to interested states for adherence to and implementation of certain international instruments, including those focusing on the non-proliferation of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons and the security of related materials. The NIM Programme provides cost-free legal advice, legislative drafting assistance and awareness raising to interested states.

### NIM Programme legislative assistance activities

The NIM programme's legislative assistance offering is implemented through a number of activities. The programme is involved in raising awareness of state's obligations under international instruments through workshops and the dissemination of training and information materials. Our staff also provide tailored advice to states that are ratifying or acceding to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment (CPPNM/A) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), also offering advice for developing legislative or UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 national action plans.

We further regularly undertake comprehensive analysis (legislation surveys) of an interested state's existing laws and regulations for implementation of the BWC, International Health Regulations (IHR), Codex Alimentarius, CWC and instruments related to chemicals management, certain instruments related to nuclear security including CPPNM and ICSANT, and UNSCR 1540. The analysis is using templates developed in-house by NIM staff. Moreover, we provide tailored advice for drafting new legislation during workshops in capitals using legislative drafting tools developed in-house and supplying examples of legislation in force to identify best legislative and regulatory practices.

### NIM programme projects and achievements

The NIM Programme has global experience working with countries in several regions and on a number of issues. In recent years it has implemented the following projects:

- "Legislative Assistance for National Implementation of the BTWC and CWC", funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2020-2022;

- “Enhanced biosecurity in South East Asia”, funded by the European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative: Project 81 2019-2022;
- “Sound management of chemicals and their associated wastes in Southeast Asia”, funded by European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative: Project 61 2017-2020;
- “Strengthening the National Legal Framework and Provision of Specialised Training on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Central Asian Countries”, funded by European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative: Project 53 2016-2019;
- “Strengthening CBRN Waste management capabilities in South-East and Eastern European countries”, funded by the European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative: Project 67 2018 – 2021 (VERTIC completed its project activities in 2019);
- “To build ODA States capacity in their efforts to develop and adopt legislative and regulatory measures to implement their obligations under the BTWC”, funded by the UK FCO Counterproliferation Programme (with additional UNODA funding) 2017-2018;
- “Legislative Implementation of UNSCR 1540 in Latin America and the Caribbean”, funded by Global Affairs Canada, Global Partnership Program 2016-2018;
- “Supporting and strengthening the BTWC and CWC through comprehensive national legislative development and regulatory frameworks”, funded by the UK FCO Strategic Programme Fund 2016-2017.

### **Record of achievements**

- developed in-house legislation survey and survey overview templates for the BWC, IHR, Codex Alimentarius, CWC and instruments related to chemicals management (including the Rotterdam, Stockholm, Basel and Minamata Conventions), international instruments for nuclear security;
- on the basis of these templates, developed BWC legislation surveys for 146 states, IHR legislation surveys for 6 states, Codex Alimentarius matrices for 7 states, CWC legislation surveys for 19 states, chemical management legislation surveys for 8 states and nuclear security legislation surveys for 20 states;
- provided tailored advice to states to prepare and draft implementing legislation for the BWC, CWC and certain instruments related to nuclear security,
- developed model laws and regulatory guidelines for national implementation of the BWC and certain instruments related to nuclear security;
- provided tailored advice and information on request on the development of control lists, establishment of a National Authority and the defining of prohibited materials;
- provided tailored advice to states reviewing or preparing their legislative or UNSCR 1540 national action plans;
- given information and support to several states concerning BWC accession or ratification, CWC accession as well as the ratification or accession of certain instruments related to nuclear security.

## NIM Programme partners

Our staff liaise and co-ordinate outreach with officials from the BWC Implementation Support Unit, WHO, OIE, OPCW, IAEA, UNODC, ICRC, as well as other regional and sub-regional organisations conducting legislative assistance such as the European Union, OSCE, UNLIREC and CARICOM. NIM Programme staff also liaise regularly with the UNSCR 1540 Committee, its expert group and UNODA (and UNODA regional offices) concerning our legislative assistance activities. The NIM Programme has conducted joint assistance visits with many of these organisations to date and has been involved in the implementation of two EU Council Decisions in support of the BWC, most recently as a named assistance provider under Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/97 of 21 January 2019 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in the framework of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

## NIM staff

NIM Programme staff are highly qualified to conduct this work. We have post-graduate qualifications in international law, extensive legislative drafting skills and substantive knowledge of CBRN implementing legislation. The team also includes staff proficient in Spanish and fluent in French, Dutch and Turkish, in addition to English.

## Contact information

We would be pleased to provide any additional information concerning our assistance activities.

For further details, please contact:

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