



The Role of the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit

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1540 Committee Briefing on the BWC

New York, 16 October 2008

**Convention on the Prohibition of
the Development, Production and
Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons
and on their Destruction**

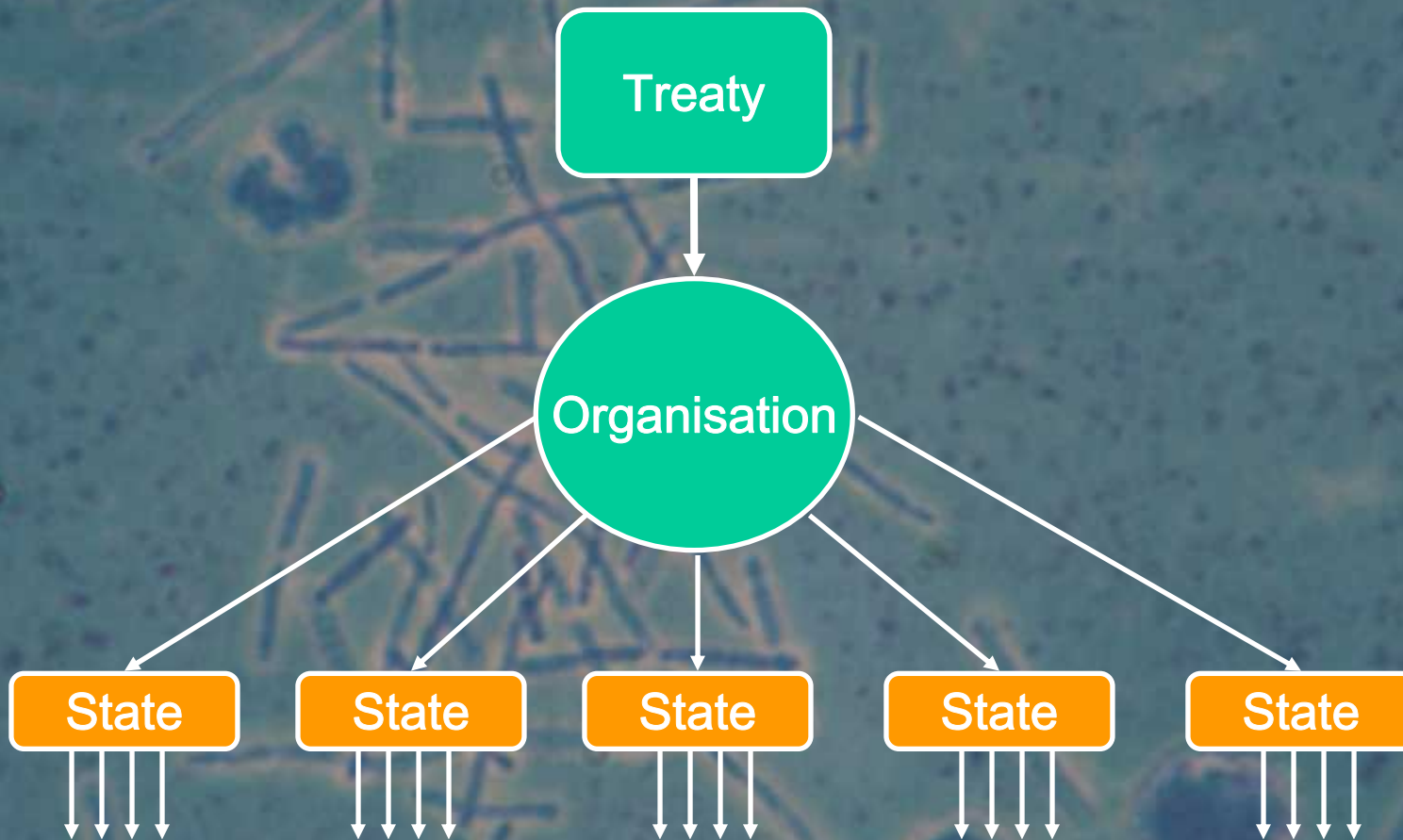
The Implementation Support Unit (ISU)

- Established by the Sixth Review Conference in 2006
- Officially operational in August 2007
- Housed in Geneva Branch of UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
- Funded by BWC States Parties
- Three full-time staff
- To be reviewed by Seventh Review Conference in 2011

Mandate of the ISU

- “Help States Parties help themselves”
- Provide administrative support for BWC meetings
- Facilitate communication among States Parties and with relevant organizations
- Support national implementation efforts
- Administer confidence-building measures (CBMs)
- Support universalization activities
- Support implementation of decisions and recommendations of Sixth Review Conference

WMD regime: traditional model



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Millett's Law of Proportional WMD Prevention



IAEA 1000 facilities 2200 staff



OPCW 10,000 facilities 500 staff



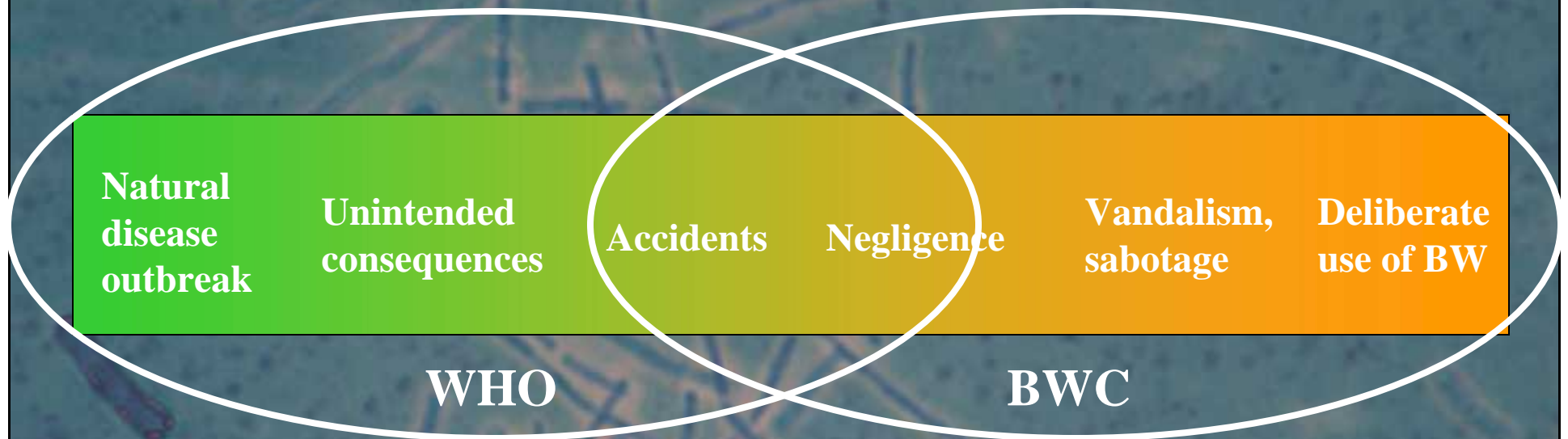
ISU 100,000 facilities 3 staff

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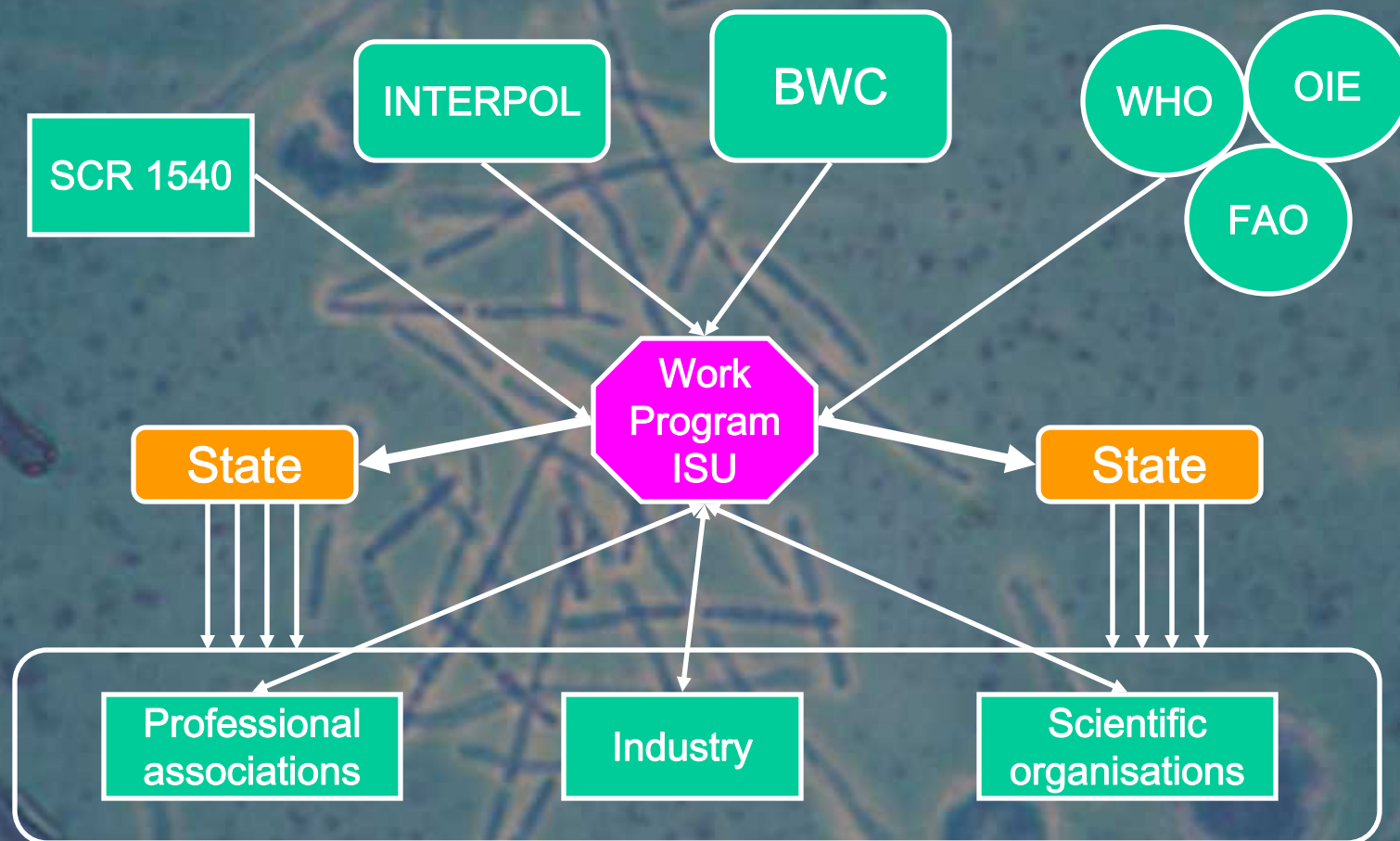
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The spectrum of biological risk



“We must look at [the BWC] as part of an interlinked array of tools, designed to deal with an interlinked array of problems” – Kofi Annan, 2006

BWC approach: a network model



ISU resources

- Website: <http://www.unog.ch/bwc>
 - includes restricted area for States Parties
 - official and informal documents, useful links
- National Implementation Database
 - over 2000 measures from 116 States Parties
- Confidence-building measures (CBMs)
 - online forms in six languages
 - tips and advice on participation, sample submissions
 - submitted CBMs available in restricted area

ISU as focal point

- “Serving as a focal point for submission of information by and to States Parties”
- “Serving as an information exchange point for assistance related to preparation of CBMs”
- ISU does not provide substantive assistance itself:
 - Role is to put States Parties in need of assistance in contact with those who can provide it

National contact points

- Sixth Review Conference requested States Parties to nominate national points of contact to facilitate:
 - National implementation
 - CBMs
 - Universalization activities
- ISU communicates with national points of contact as well as with permanent missions in Geneva or New York

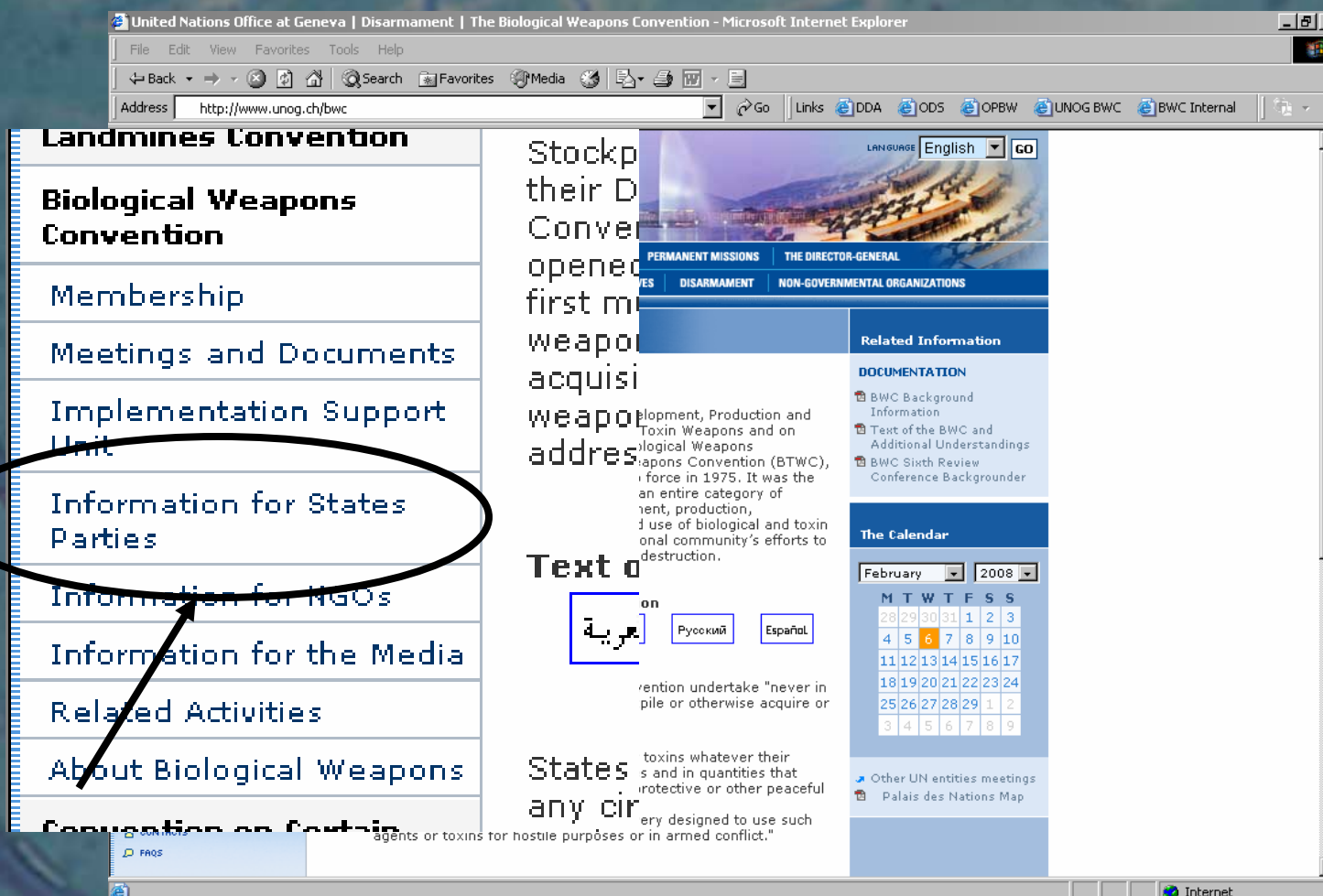
Assistance from States Parties

- “The Conference urges States Parties with relevant experience in legal and administrative measures for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, to provide assistance on request to other States Parties.”
- ISU maintains a list of generic offers of assistance made by States Parties to date

What kind of assistance?

- National implementation
 - Drafting legislation and regulations
 - Designing administrative systems
 - Training and capacity-building
- Confidence-building measures (CBMs)
 - Advice and “coaching”
 - On-site assistance to prepare first submission
- Participation in intersessional process
 - Travel to Geneva for expert meetings
- Anything else related to improving implementation of the Convention...

More information: www.unog.ch/bwc



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