



CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS  
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

**BWC**  
IMPLEMENTATION  
SUPPORT UNIT

**UNITED NATIONS**  
OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS



# The BWC ISU and the Second Intersessional Process

Implementation Support Unit  
Biological Weapons Convention



## BWC ISU - A NEW UNIT FOR A NEW APPROACH

*And perhaps most historically of all, we have agreed to establish an Implementation Support Unit to assist us in implementing the decisions of this Conference. For many years, the States Parties have debated the need for institutional support for the Convention. Now we have it, built not on a political argument, nor on a perception that “something is better than nothing”, but on the solid basis of the positive and practical contribution the temporary secretariat has made over the past three years.*



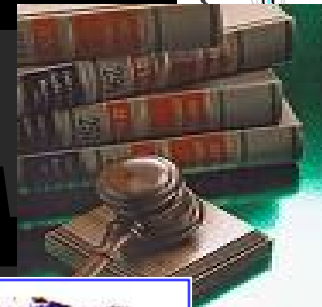
Closing Remarks  
President of the 2006 BWC Review Conference



## THE ROLE OF THE ISU

BWC ISU mandate covers 4 areas:

- Administrative Support
- Confidence Building Measures
- National Implementation
- Universalization





## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT: HELPING YOU TO HELP EACH OTHER

Since its creation the ISU has:

- Acted as secretariat at BWC meetings
- Maintained & developed BWC website
- Created a restricted access area of website
- Had regular contact with IOs
- Had contact with scientific & academic institutions, as well as NGOs
- Attended meetings & events
- Acted as a clearing house for assistance





## CBMs: ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY, BUILDING TRUST

- 61 States made returns in 2007 (38%)
- Returns processed by ISU:
  - 57 in restricted area
  - 3 in public area
  - 4 Requested not to go online
- Prepared data CD with PDF copies of all CBM returns to date - distributed to States Parties
- Developing electronic reporting format
- Provided administrative assistance for CBMs

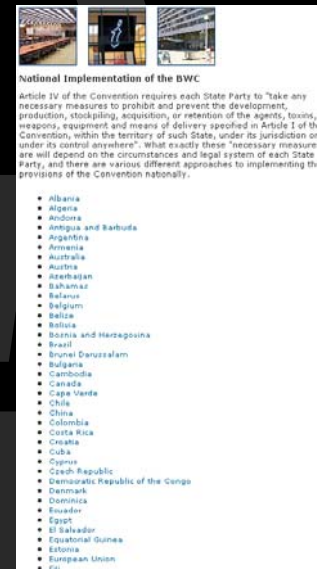




## NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION: DOMESTIC ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT

### The ISU:

- Acts as a clearing house for assistance
- Maintains the NID (currently 2022 measures:
  - From 130 States
  - 119 States Parties (76%)
  - 5 Signatories
  - 6 States not party
  - 1 regional organization
- Has been learning best practices from IGOs







## UNIVERSALIZATION: GLOBALISING THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPON BAN

The ISU has been:

- Assisting the Chair
- Assisting States Parties
- Conducting outreach with Signatories and states not party
- Maintaining details of progress towards universality
- Preparing to report to the MSP





## BWC ISU: WORKING TOGETHER FOR ALL OUR FUTURES

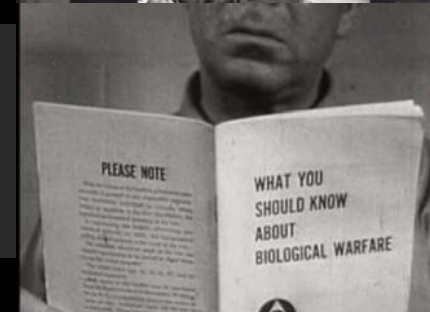
- Facilitating communication, focusing efforts, coordinating action, making connections; or...
- You do the work – we take the credit
- Early results:
  - Universality: 4 new States Parties in 2007
  - CBMs: record number of submissions in 2007





## GENERAL ACTIVITIES FOR STATES PARTIES

- Nominate national contact point
- Submit a CBM
- Review relevant domestic measures
- Persuade others to join the BWC
- Stay informed





## THE SECOND INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS:

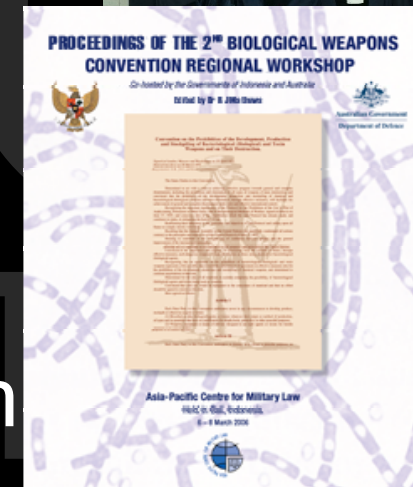
- Sixth Review Conference created series of annual meetings, 2007 - 2010
- Each set of meetings comprised of:
  - One week meeting at expert level
  - One week meeting at State level
- Each set of meetings to address specific topics
- All meetings open to any contribution by States Parties
- Meetings are to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on measures to strengthen the implementation of the BWC.





## 2007: A SOUND START

- Two topics:
  - Ways and means to enhance national implementation
  - Regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation
- Meeting of Experts (20 - 24 August 2007)
- Meeting of States Parties (10 - 14 Dec 2007)





## 2008: THE NEXT STEPS

- Two topics:
  - National, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity
  - Oversight, education, awareness raising, and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct
- Very substantive topics
- Large numbers of relevant actors outside BWC
- Necessary to prepare well
- Must begin official meetings ready to start work!



## 2009 & 2010: THE PATH TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> REVIEW CONFERENCE

- 2009 meeting: *promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases*
- 2010: *Provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons*
- Seventh Review Conference will consider work and outcome of intersessional process & decide on any further action.



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## IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT

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