

**Research Group for
Biological Arms Control**



2015 Reader on Publicly Available CBMs

December 2015

About this Reader

The exchange of information under the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in the form of the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) remains the only permanent transparency building tool of the BWC.

This Reader, as its forerunners, presents information on CBM-related developments and the data provided in the openly available CBMs of the current year. The CBM Reader aims to underline the importance of participating in the CBM data exchange as the only established permanent transparency tool for the BWC and to highlight the particular efforts of an increasing number of states to foster transparency by making their CBM submissions available to the public. The CBM Reader series is prepared as part of our efforts to increase transparency around bioweapon relevant activities globally. Such transparency is indispensable for building confidence in compliance with the BWC and must extend to all stakeholders including civil society. For more information please visit www.biological-arms-control.org/projects_improvingthecbms.html.

Development of the CBM regime in 2015

On the 7th Review Conference in 2011 BWC States Parties decided to address CBMs in the 2012 and 2013 the Meetings of Experts and the Meetings of States Parties. As result of the discussions in the actual ISP a possible update of the CBM forms (that date back to the year 1992) could be envisaged. Figures showed in this reader illustrate also the need for a debate how a better participation in the mechanism could be reached. The debates in the precedent ISP meetings show that these issues still have some potential for development. Decisions can, however, not be taken before the 8th Review Conference in 2016.

Facts about the BWC and its CBMs

BWC States Parties: 173

New BWC States Parties in 2015: 2

States Parties with national contact points: 77

CBMs submitted in 2015: 70 as of 15 April 2015

First-time CBM submissions in 2015: 1

**Number of states having participated in the
CBM data exchange in 25 years: 115**

CBM-specific publications in 2015

BWC/MSP/2015/MX/WP.16- Providing reassurance on Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation. Submitted by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Japan, Malaysia, Norway, Republic of Korea, Thailand.

BWC/MSP/2013/WP.1 Confidence-building measures: time to redouble efforts for effective action - submitted by the United States of America.

BWC/MSP/2013/WP.6 Confidence-Building Measures: Taking discussions on enabling fuller participation forward to the Eighth Review Conference. Submitted by Switzerland.

BWC/MSP/2013/WP.7 Step-by-step approach in CBM participation. Submitted by Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Switzerland.

“Biological Weapons Convention Confidence, the prohibition and learning from the past” by Brian Rappert and Chandré Gould, Institute for Security Studies Africa¹

“Guide to Participating in the Confidence-Building Measures of the Biological Weapons Convention” prepared by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs with the support of the European Union²

“The Biological Weapons Convention: Compliance, Transparency & Confidence” by Filippa Lentzos, Kings College London³

“Balanced Minimalism. The Biological Weapons Convention after its 7th Review Conference” in PRIF-report No. 120 by Una Becker-Jakob, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt⁴

“Report from Geneva: The Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts August 2013” by Graham S. Pearson in association with Nicholas A. Sims⁵

Participation in the CBM regime in 2015

In 2015, participation in the CBM data exchange increased considerably. As of 15 April 2015, 70 BWC states parties had submitted their CBM. The overall status of the CBMs remains weak.

¹ <http://www.issafrica.org/uploads/Paper258.pdf>

² [http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/5316814CF65D0E10C1257B2B0039E156/\\$file/CBM+guide+2013.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/5316814CF65D0E10C1257B2B0039E156/$file/CBM+guide+2013.pdf)

³ <http://www.filippalenzos.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/The-BWC-Compliance-Transparency-and-Confidence-.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.hsfk.de/PRIF-Reports.890.0.html>

⁵ <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/spru/hsp/Reports%20from%20Geneva/HSP%20Reports%20from%20Geneva%20no.%2038.pdf>

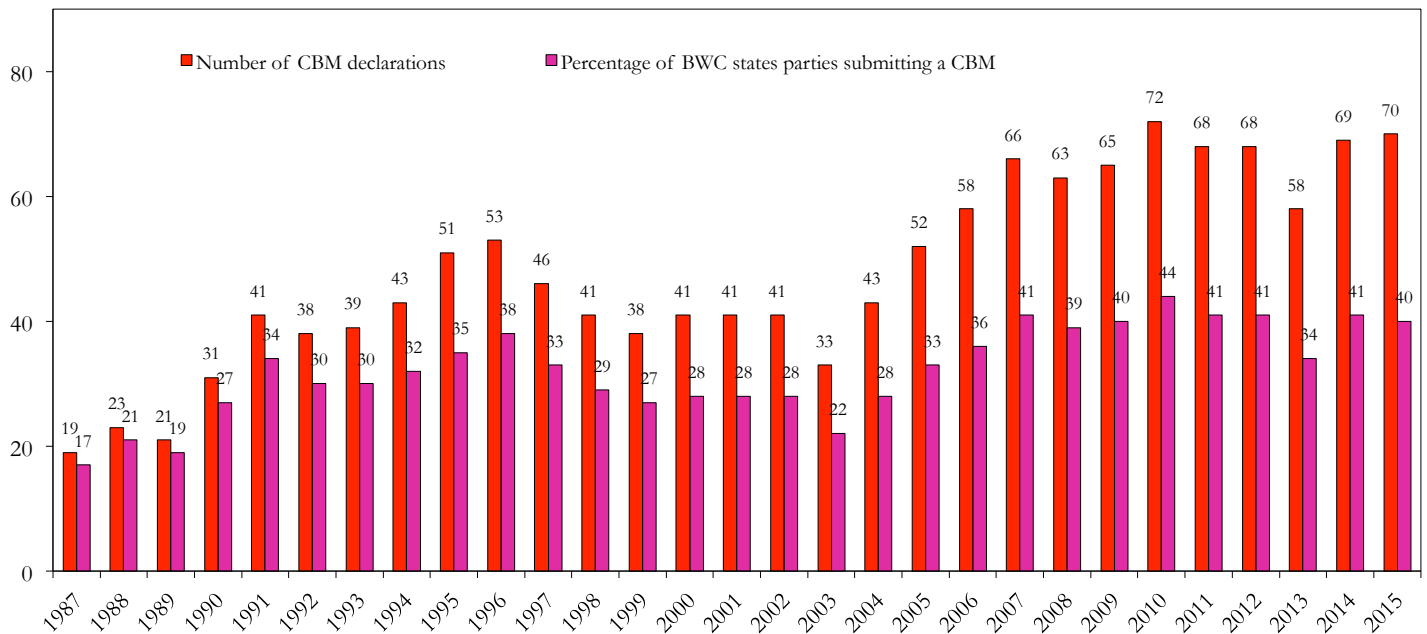
Since the beginning of the data exchange in 1987, the annual level of participation was never higher than 44 per cent of the BWC states parties. In total, 115 countries submitted a CBM at least once. This means that 58 BWC states parties have yet to submit their first CBM declaration. Continuity in states' participation also remains weak: 25 countries have submitted a CBM annually for the last 10 years and 32 countries have submitted a CBM only once or twice since 1987.

First-time submissions in 2015: Republic of Moldova

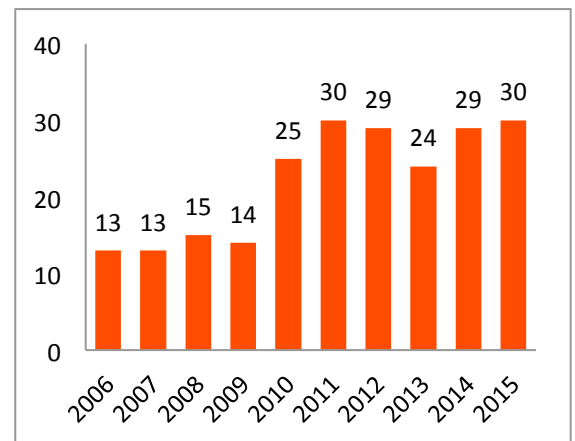
CBM submissions in 2015 (States in bold made their CBM available to the public.):

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Albania | 16. Colombia | 30. India | 45. Mauritius | 59. Singapore |
| 2. Algeria | 17. Croatia | 31. Indonesia | 46. Mexico | 60. Slovakia |
| 3. Argentina | 18. Cuba | 32. Iraq | 47. Morocco | 61. Slovenia |
| 4. Armenia | 19. Cyprus | 33. Ireland | 48. Netherlands | 62. South Africa |
| 5. Australia | 20. Czech | 34. Italy | 49. New | 63. Spain |
| 6. Austria | Republic | 35. Japan | Zealand | 64. Sweden |
| 7. Azerbaijan | 21. Denmark | 36. Jordan | 50. Norway | 65. Switzerland |
| 8. Belarus | 22. Ecuador | 37. Kazakhstan | 51. Poland | 66. Turkey |
| 9. Belgium | 23. Estonia | 38. Kenya | 52. Portugal | 67. Ukraine |
| 10. Bhutan | 24. Finland | 39. Kyrgyzstan | 53. Qatar | 68. UK |
| 11. Brazil | 25. France | 40. Latvia | 54. Rep. Korea | 69. USA |
| 12. Bulgaria | 26. Georgia | 41. Liechtenstein | 55. Rep. Moldova | 70. Uzbekistan |
| 13. Canada | 27. Germany | 42. Lithuania | 56. Romania | |
| 14. Chile | 28. Greece | 43. Luxembourg | 57. Russia | |
| 15. China | 29. Hungary | 44. Malaysia | 58. Serbia | |

Figure 1. CBM submissions per year between 1987 and 2015 (Numbers in this figure differ from numbers provided by the Implementation Support Unit. This is due to differences in counting states that were formerly part of other states, such as the former republics of the Soviet Union. This figure provides the actual number of CBM declarations submitted in the respective year.)



As of 15 April 2015, 30 countries have made their 2015 CBM declarations publicly available, a notable increase compared to previous years. 29 of the 30 publicly available CBMs can be found on the website of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) (www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the USA. One CBM was provided directly to the Hamburg Research Group: Hungary.



At least Belgium and the USA provided two separate versions of their CBMs, one for the restricted part of the ISU website and one for the public.

Table 1. Countries that made their CBM declarations publicly available, 2006-2015

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Albania					x					
Australia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Austria				x	x	x	x	x		x
Bangladesh			x							
Belgium						x	x	x	x	x
Brazil					x					
Bulgaria		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Canada						x	x	x	x	x
Croatia	x								x	
Cyprus						x	x			
Czech Republic	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Denmark		x	x		x	x	x		x	x
Ecuador						x				
Estonia					x	x		x		
Finland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Georgia				x	x	x				
Germany	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Greece						x	x	x		
Hungary									x	x
Japan							x	x	x	x
Ireland	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Latvia	x			x		x	x	x	x	x
Liechtenstein		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Lithuania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Luxembourg									x	x
Madagascar							x			
Malaysia	x					x				
Mexico										x
Netherlands								x	x	x
New Zealand	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Norway			x		x	x	x	x		x
Poland					x					
Portugal					x	x	x	x	x	x
Qatar							x	x		
Republic of Moldova							x	x	x	x
Romania			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Serbia							x		x	x
Slovakia									x	
Slovenia									x	x
Senegal					x					
Slovakia		x								
Sweden	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Switzerland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Thailand					x	x	x			
Turkey						x	x		x	x
United Kingdom	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ukraine						x	x			x
USA					x	x	x	x	x	x
Total	13	13	15	14	25	30	29	24	29	30

As shown in Table 1 above 48 countries have made their CBM publicly available at least once since 2006. Many states make their CBMs publicly available in an erratic way. No explanation readily offers itself for why many states make their CBMs publicly available in one year but not in another.

Summary of data in publicly available 2015 CBM declarations

A summary of the data declared in the 30 publicly available CBMs of 2015 is provided in the table below. More detailed information can be found in the Annex to this Reader. 32 maximum biological containment facilities were declared in publicly available CBMs in 2015, seven of which were partially or wholly funded by ministries of defence. 21 of the 30 countries making their 2015 CBM publicly available declared having a biodefence programme; they provided information on 64 biodefence facilities. And lastly, thirteen unusual disease outbreaks and 83 vaccine production facilities were declared in the 30 publicly available CBMs of 2015.

Table 2. Summary of data in publicly available CBM declarations, 2015

Form A, part 1:	Number of maximum biological containment facilities (BSL-4 or equivalent) declared.
Form A, part 2 (i):	Does the state party declare having a biodefence programme?
Form A, part 2 (iii):	Number of biodefence facilities declared.
Form B (ii):	Number of unusual disease outbreaks declared.
Form F:	Does the state party declare having a past offensive and/or defensive programme?
Form G:	Number of vaccine production facilities declared.
ND:	“Nothing to declare” indicated in Form 0.
NN:	“Nothing new to declare” indicated in Form 0.

Country	Form A, part 1	Form A, part 2 (i)	Form A, part 2 (iii)	Form B (ii)	Form F (off/def)	Form G
Australia	4	yes	1	0	no/no	3
Austria	0	yes	1	ND	no/no	0
Belgium	0	yes	4	ND	ND	1
Bulgaria	0	yes	1	ND	no/no	1
Canada	2	yes	2	5	yes/yes	13
Czech Republic	1	no	2	ND	NN	5
Denmark	0	yes	1	ND	no/yes	2
Finland	0	yes	1	ND	ND	ND
Germany	3 ¹	yes	5	1	NN	5
Hungary	1	yes	1	n.a.	no / no	1
Ireland	0	no	ND	ND	ND	4
Japan	2	yes	1	ND	NN	7
Latvia	0	yes	1	ND	NN	ND
Lithuania	0	no	ND	ND	no/no	NN
Luxembourg	0	no	0	NN	no / no	ND
Mexico	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	2
Netherlands	0	yes	1	0	no/yes	8
New Zealand	0	no	ND	NN	no/no	ND
Norway	0	yes	1	ND	no/no	3
Portugal	0	yes	1	ND	no/yes	1
Republic of Moldova	0	yes	1	1	NN	ND
Romania	0	yes	ND	ND	ND	1
Serbia	0	no	ND	ND	no/no	1
Slovenia	0	no	ND	ND	ND	0
Sweden	1	yes	2	ND	no/no	1
Switzerland	2	yes	14	3	no/yes	1
Turkey	0	yes	2	ND	no/no	8
Ukraine	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	8
United Kingdom	8 ³	yes	1	2	yes/yes	3
USA	8	yes	24	7	NN	10
¹ Includes one maximum containment facility not suitable for work with human pathogens. ² The BSL-4 unit is approved for diagnostic purposes only.						

³ Includes three animal pathogen maximum containment facilities designated SAPO (Specified Animal Pathogens Order).

Research Group for Biological Arms Control

The aim of the Research Group is to contribute, through innovative research and outreach activities, to the universal prevention of biological weapons development, production and use. The focus of activities is twofold. Firstly, the Research Group contributes to preventing the erosion of the universal bioweapons prohibition by opposing norm-harming activities. Secondly, it develops new concepts and instruments for monitoring bioweapon relevant activities and for verifying and enforcing compliance with the norm against bioweapons.

Contact

Research Group for Biological Arms Control
C. F. v. Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace
Research • University of Hamburg
Beim Schlump 83 • 20144 Hamburg • Germany
Tel +49 40 42838 4383 • Fax +49 40 42838 3052
E-mail info@biological-arms-control.org
www.biological-arms-control.org