



**UNODA**  
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR  
DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

14-15 June 2023

# Capacity-building projects in support of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative  
9<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the National Focal Points

Brussels, Belgium

*Ms. Melanie Gerber  
Political Affairs Officer / BWC Team  
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (Geneva Branch)*

# Overview

1. Objectives & Scope
2. Capacity-building Activities & Implementation Approach
3. Projects
4. Other relevant UNODA initiatives

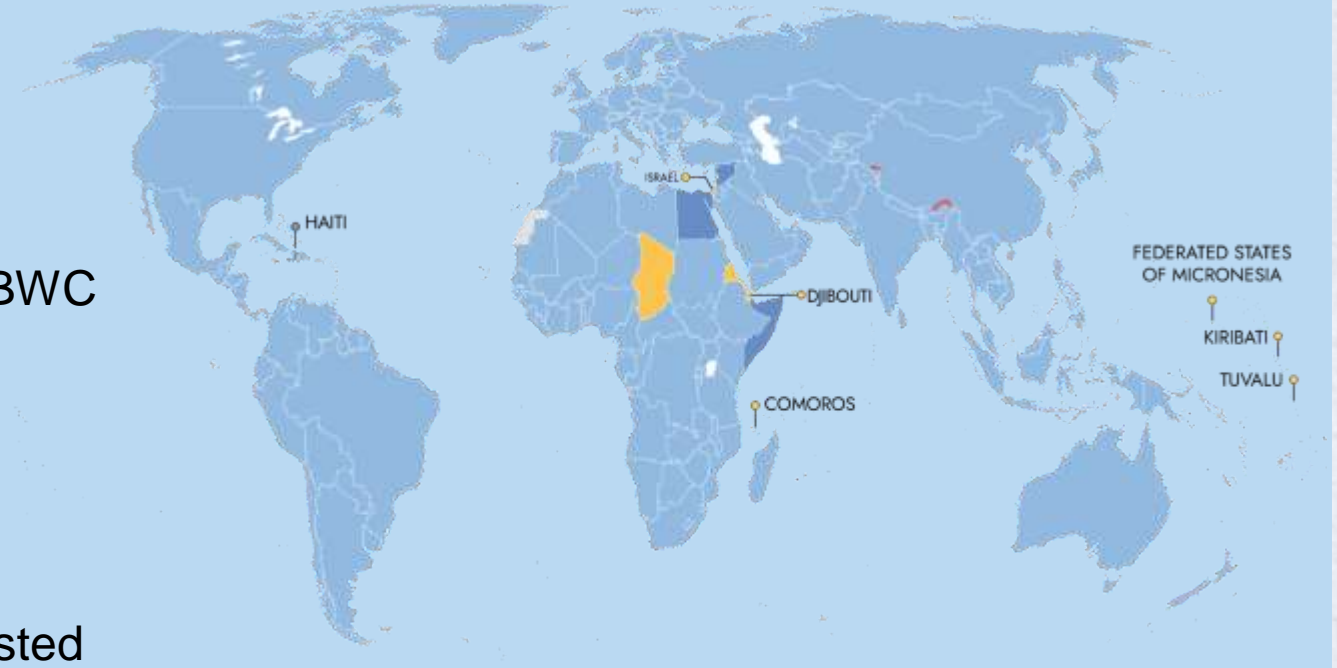
# 1. Objectives & Scope

## Objectives

- 1) Universalization of the BWC
- 2) Strengthened Implementation of the BWC

## Scope

Assistance is available to all States interested in joining the BWC and/or strengthen national implementation.



185

States Parties

4

Signatory States

8

Non-Signatory States

## 2. Capacity-building activities



### **Promoting universalization of the BWC**

*National awareness-raising on BWC*



### **Strengthening national coordination**

*Incl. inter-agency cooperation*



### **Supporting the designation and training of National Contact Points**



### **Training on the Preparation of Confidence Building Measures**



### **Providing legislative assistance**

*incl. in-house legal assistance*



### **Outreach / Awareness-raising**

*Various Guides on the Convention, CBMs, National Implementation and other resources*



### **Capacity-building**

*Incl. Youth for Biosecurity Initiative, facilitating 3<sup>rd</sup> party assistance*



### **Sponsorship Programme**

*Facilitating the participation of national experts and officials to BWC Meetings in Geneva*

# Approach to project delivery



## **Needs-based and tailored**

Support is being provided following bilateral/regional consultations in line with States' identified workplans, needs and priorities.



## **Collaboration with regional and international partners**

Activities are being implemented in close collaboration with regional partners and assistance providers to benefit from existing networks and synergies and ensure coordination with related initiatives.



## **Diverse modalities**

Support is being delivered through a combination of regional, sub-regional and national activities.

# 3. Projects



## **Projects being implemented by the UNODA/BWC team**

- European Union Council Decisions 2019/97 (2019-2023) and 2021/2072 (2022-2023) in support of the BWC
- Global Partnership (Signature Initiative) project on supporting universalization and implementation of the BWC in Africa (2022 – 2026)
- Voluntary contributions provided by States Parties to the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU)



## 4. Other UNODA Initiatives

### **UNODA Support to the Implementation of UNSCR 1540**

#### **UNODA's approach to supporting implementation:**

- Facilitating national implementation activities, including through regionally coordinated approaches;
- Enhancing cooperation with mandated UN and international organizations.
- Building effective partnerships with key stakeholders (Industry, academia, CSO).

**European Council decisions in support of UNODA efforts [2023/654; 2021/1025; 2017/809; 2013/391]**

#### **Key deliverables:**

- Regional training courses for 1540 Points of Contacts.
- National implementation activities (stakeholder sensitization & dialogue; reporting; NAP development; assistance requests formulation; capacity building).
- Dialogue platforms with partners (assistance & review conferences; industry engagement; CSO consultations).

# UNODA Support to the Implementation of UNSCR 1540

## Contact details

**UNSCR 1540 Support Unit**  
Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch  
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs  
Email: [oda-1540-support@un.org](mailto:oda-1540-support@un.org)

**Mr. Ismail Balla**  
Head of Unit – New York  
[balla@un.org](mailto:balla@un.org)

**Ms. Natasha Carvalho-Malekane**  
Political Affairs Officer – New York  
[natasha.carvalho-malekane@un.org](mailto:natasha.carvalho-malekane@un.org)

**Ms. Amanda Cowl**  
Regional Coordinator for Asia – Bangkok  
[amanda.cowl@un.org](mailto:amanda.cowl@un.org)

**Ms. Einas Mohammed**  
Regional Coordinator for Africa – Addis Ababa  
[einas.mohammed@un.org](mailto:einas.mohammed@un.org)



# Promoting Responsible Innovation in Artificial Intelligence for Peace and Security (CFSP 2022/2269)

- **Objective:** To support greater engagement from the civilian AI community in mitigating the risks that the misuse of civilian AI technology can pose to international peace and security.
- **Key elements relevant to CBRN partner countries**
  - 1) In-person regional capacity-building workshops for educators and students focused on AI and related technologies. Workshops carried out with partner universities in the EU over 2023-2025, but inviting and open to students from around the world, with particularly emphasis on global south. Focus on incorporating attention to peace and security risks in civilian responsible AI efforts.
  - 2) Multi-stakeholder dialogues (virtual) on 'responsible AI innovation for peace and security' over 2023-2025. Bringing together experts from academia, research, the private sector, and traditional arms control from around the world to discuss technological trends that may generate diffusion, diversion and misuse risks with impacts for international peace and security; how to engage in risk mitigation through responsible innovation processes, methods and means, and opportunities and challenges for dialogue and knowledge sharing between stakeholder communities, including those operating in other sectors such as the biological and chemical industries;
- **Contact for further engagement**

Mr. Charles Ovink, Political Affairs Officer and programme lead for ODA at [charles.ovink@un.org](mailto:charles.ovink@un.org)

# Thank You!

Biological Weapons Convention  
Implementation Support Unit  
United Nations Office for Disarmament  
Affairs

Ms. Melanie Gerber  
Political Affairs Officer  
E-mail: [gerberm@un.org](mailto:gerberm@un.org)

E-mail: [bwc@un.org](mailto:bwc@un.org)

[https://disarmament.unoda.org/biological-  
weapons](https://disarmament.unoda.org/biological-weapons)



@BWCISU



[www.facebook.com/1972BWC](http://www.facebook.com/1972BWC)