



NEWS

National workshop on the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in Mongolia, 28-29 April 2014

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) and the UNODA-Geneva Branch, is organising, with financial support from the European Union (EU), a workshop on the national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The workshop is organised in collaboration with the government of Mongolia and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The workshop will be conducted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 28-29 April 2014 and bring together all the national stakeholders and implementing authorities in Mongolia with international experts on the subject. The activity is part of wider assistance programmes for promoting universal adherence to the BWC and CWC and enhancing national capabilities for implementing obligations under the two Conventions, *inter alia*, modalities for national coordination to facilitate implementation; increasing participation in the BWC Confidence-building Measures; legislative, administrative and enforcement measures; awareness-raising; and the creation of codes of conduct and standards on biological and chemical safety and security.

During the workshop, participants will discuss ways to reinforce national implementation based on identified best practices. They will also identify key partners, conduct an initial needs and priorities assessment and develop a plan of action for strengthening implementation in Mongolia. Experts from VERTIC (the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre), EU, OPCW, UNODA and UNRCPD will make presentations during the two days.

The three main pillars of the international community's key efforts to control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are the BWC, the CWC and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The BWC was opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. It prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, storage and stockpiling of biological and toxic weapons. The CWC opened for signature in January 1993 and entered into force April 1997 with 87 States Parties. To date, 190 countries have ratified the CWC have become States Parties to it. The CWC prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. It also provides for the destruction of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under its verification regime.

The UNODA-Geneva Branch hosts the BWC Implementation Support Unit to assist States Parties in national implementation efforts at their request. As part of its mandate, UNRCPD is engaged in supporting the implementation of the BWC in Asia and the Pacific. This workshop is part of the EU funded "BWC Action", which supports the BWC implementation at international, regional and national levels.

For more information please contact: Ms. Haruka Katarao, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. Tel : (+977) 1 501 0257, E-mail : haruka.katarao@unrcpd.org; Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh van der Blij, Political Affairs Officer; BWC Implementation Support Unit in Geneva, Tel:(+41) 22 917 22 61, E-mail: nphuynh@unog.ch; or Ms. Mina Senior-Faress, Implementation Support Officer, OPCW, Tel: +3170 416 3277, Email: mina.senior-faress@opcw.org

With the financial support of the European Union:

