

Transparency and the BWC

Presentation to the BWC Working Group Meeting

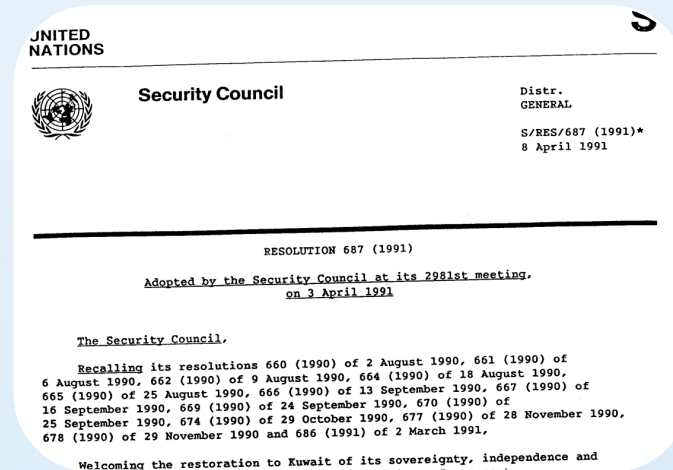
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OUTLINE

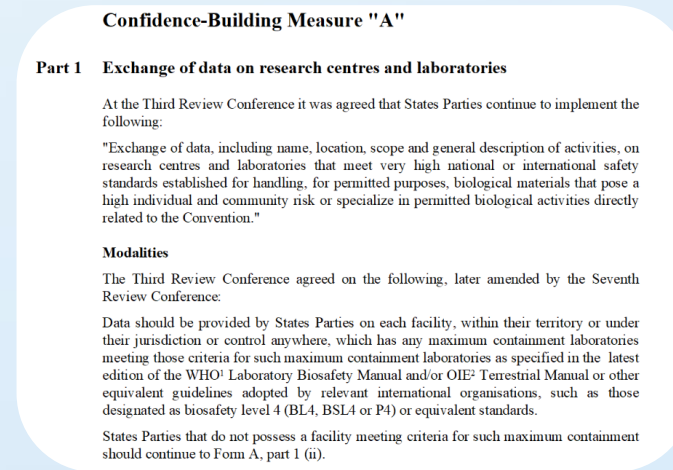
- Forms and direction of transparency
- Objectives of transparency
- Past BWC discussion around transparency in the BWC
- Transparency in or of what?
- Tools and approaches to enhancing transparency
- Moving forward

TRANSPARENCY

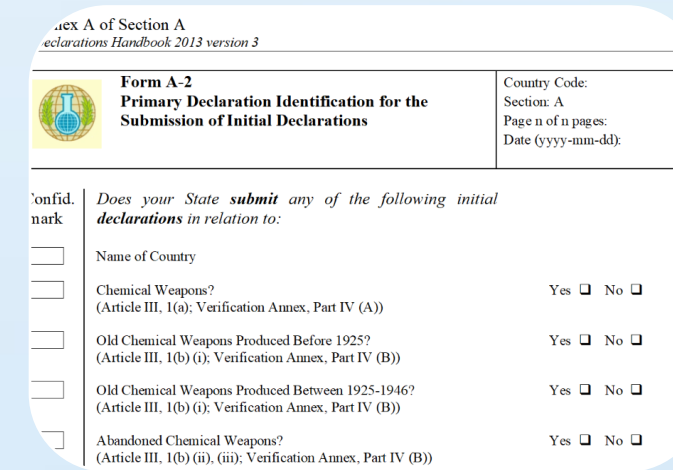
- Transparency can take different forms:



Coercive transparency
(e.g. UNSCOM)



Politically binding
transparency measures
(e.g. CBMs)



Legally binding
transparency measures
(e.g. Declarations)



Non-Voluntary
transparency (e.g. open
source data sources)

- Transparency can have different "directions" State to State, State to IOs, State to Publics, Publics and IOs to States.
- Transparency can be provided unilaterally or as part of a bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral process.

OBJECTIVES OF TRANSPARENCY

- Transparency measures are *not* a substitute for a verification.
- However, transparency measures can contribute to strengthening the BWC through several routes. They can:
 - Dispel concerns over non-compliance and resolve ambiguities
 - Encourage compliance and deter actors from violations of the BWC
 - Foster predictability and reduced scope for misunderstanding and suspicion
 - Facilitate good practice in the implementation of the BWC
- A note of caution, incomplete or inconsistent transparency data can be counterproductive, increasing ambiguities and exacerbating concerns.

TRANSPARENCY IN PAST BWC

DISCUSSIONS

1st Review Conference

- Invited States Parties to make text of national legislation available

2nd Review Conference

- Established the CBMs

3rd Review Conference

- Presentation of a biodefence transparency mechanism

Ad Hoc Group

- Trade and end user certification; declarations; transparency visits; transparency thresholds

4th Review Conference

- Information on the destruction of stockpiles

6th Review Conference

- Information on implementation of Article X

7th Review Conference

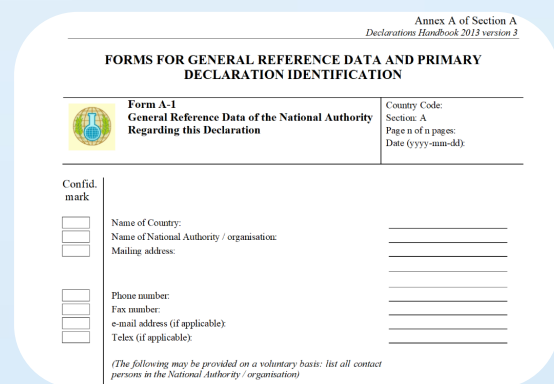
- Revised CBM reporting forms

TRANSPARENCY OF OR IN WHAT?

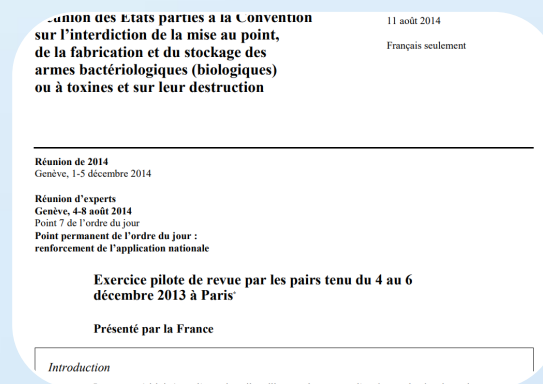


TOOLS AND APPROACHES TO ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY

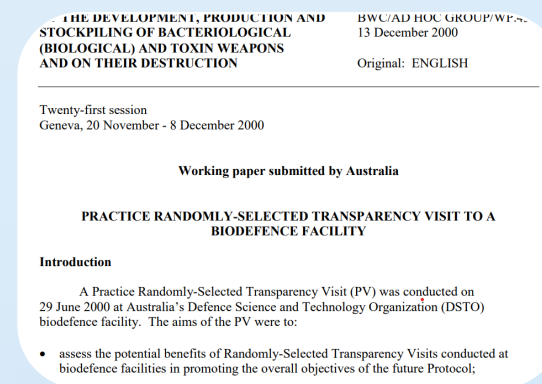
- Politically-binding CBMs are an important transparency measure.
- However, several other tools and approaches could also help build transparency, including:



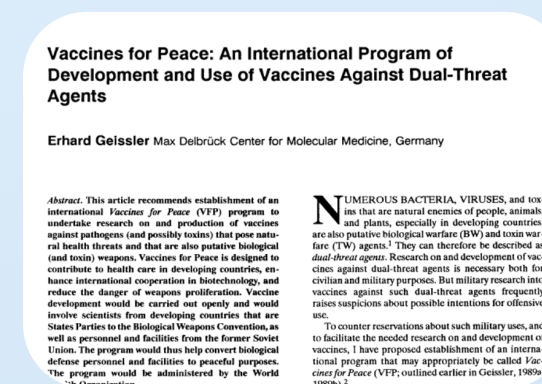
Declarations or "annual transparency reports".



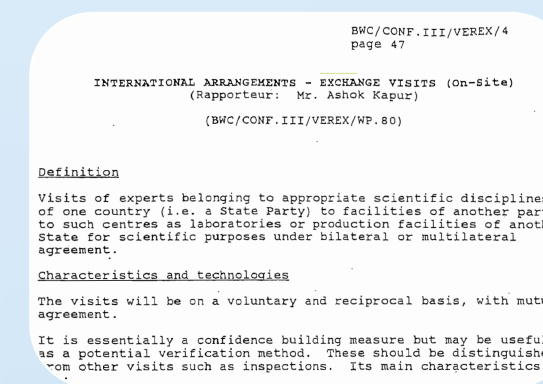
Voluntary transparency initiatives (including peer review).



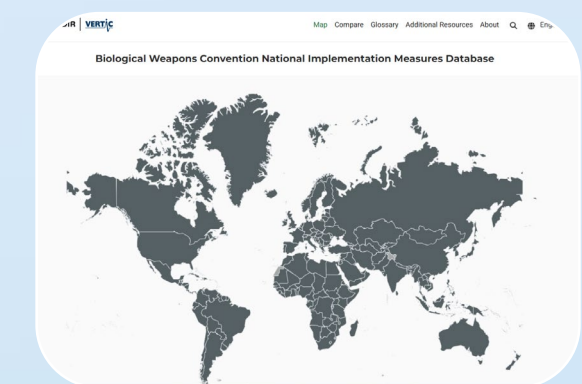
Transparency or Confidence Building visits.



Collaborative research projects.



Scientific exchanges or laboratory twinning processes.



Legal cases and prosecutions of CBW?

- Open-source data can also provide additional information on *inter alia*: disease outbreaks, publications, patents, trade data, national implementation.

MOVING FORWARD

- Transparency measures can play an important role in building confidence in compliance with the BWC.
- Enhancing transparency around dual use biology is particularly important in periods of geopolitical tension and technological change.
- Partial transparency or conflicting transparency initiatives could be counterproductive and there will be limits to the extent of transparency.
- Channels to discuss transparency related data might be useful to consider.
- There are a range of areas where BWC States Parties might seek to enhance transparency and a range of tools that facilitate enhanced transparency.
- Suitable resourced and mandated, there is a role for the ISU in facilitating transparency and perhaps undertaking basic analysis of related materials.

THANKS

