

Building trust through verification



VERTIC's National Implementing Measures Programme

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What is VERTIC?

VERTIC is an independent, non-profit making, non-governmental organization located in London, United Kingdom, that promotes the effective verification and implementation of arms control, disarmament and environment agreements.

VERTIC's National Implementing Measures (NIM) Programme, with funding and in-kind assistance from Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, has been developed to assist States in understanding what measures are required at the national level to comply with the prohibitions in a wide range of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons treaties, norms and UN Security Council resolutions and how to implement them.

VERTIC's National Implementing Measures Programme

At a Government's request, our multilingual team of common and civil law lawyers can –

- Undertake *comprehensive analysis* of the State's existing legislation for implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and UNSC Resolution 1540
- Provide *direct legislative drafting assistance* in capitals, or other forms of assistance (for example, reviewing draft legislation), at no cost to the Government
- Provide legislative *drafting tools* for the Government's guidance and use
- Provide *fact sheets* for the Government's guidance

VERTIC's legislative analysis

Survey of [State's]
National Implementing Measures for the
1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention



I. LEGISLATION SURVEY

A.	Definitions	
1.	Biological agent	
2.	Toxin	
3.	Non-state actor	
4.	Biological weapon	
5.	Other	
B.	Offences and penalties	
1.	Develop biological weapons and penalties	
2.	Manufacture/produce biological weapons and penalties	
3.	Acquire biological weapons and penalties	

VERTIC's legislative analysis

Legislative analysis of States' existing legislation for biosafety and biosecurity and additional obligations arising from the BTWC and UNSCR 1540 ...

- We are working with Governments from the outset of the assistance process, for example, discussing what their needs may be, how we can co-operate, and States' existing legislation
- We are preparing 'legislative surveys' for Governments → a survey is an analysis based on 96 criteria (covering definitions, offences, preparations, jurisdiction, biosafety/biosecurity, transfers control, and enforcement)
- Relevant national legislation and regulations are thoroughly reviewed
- We work with Governments to obtain any legislation we cannot locate through open sources and incorporate this into subsequent surveys; we have relevant legislative provisions translated if necessary
- We track statistics on national implementation based on the surveys

On-site support remotely or in capitals

At a Government's request, and with legislative analysis completed, we can provide direct legislative support remotely or in capital ...

- We co-operate with the Government in developing —
 - a **comprehensive draft bill** (using VERTIC's *Sample Act* as an option) to implement the BTWC and UNSCR 1540 and establish biosafety and biosecurity frameworks, and as a starting point for further inter-agency collaboration and development of the bill, and
 - a **National Implementation Action Plan**
- VERTIC continues to work with the Government through **approval and adoption** of the draft bill with comments on subsequent drafts (via fax, phone, email) and an additional visit if necessary
- The visit is at **no cost** to Governments and takes **2 business days**
- Our objective is to conduct 30 support activities by the BTWC 7th Review Conference in 2011

VERTIC's NIM Programme tools

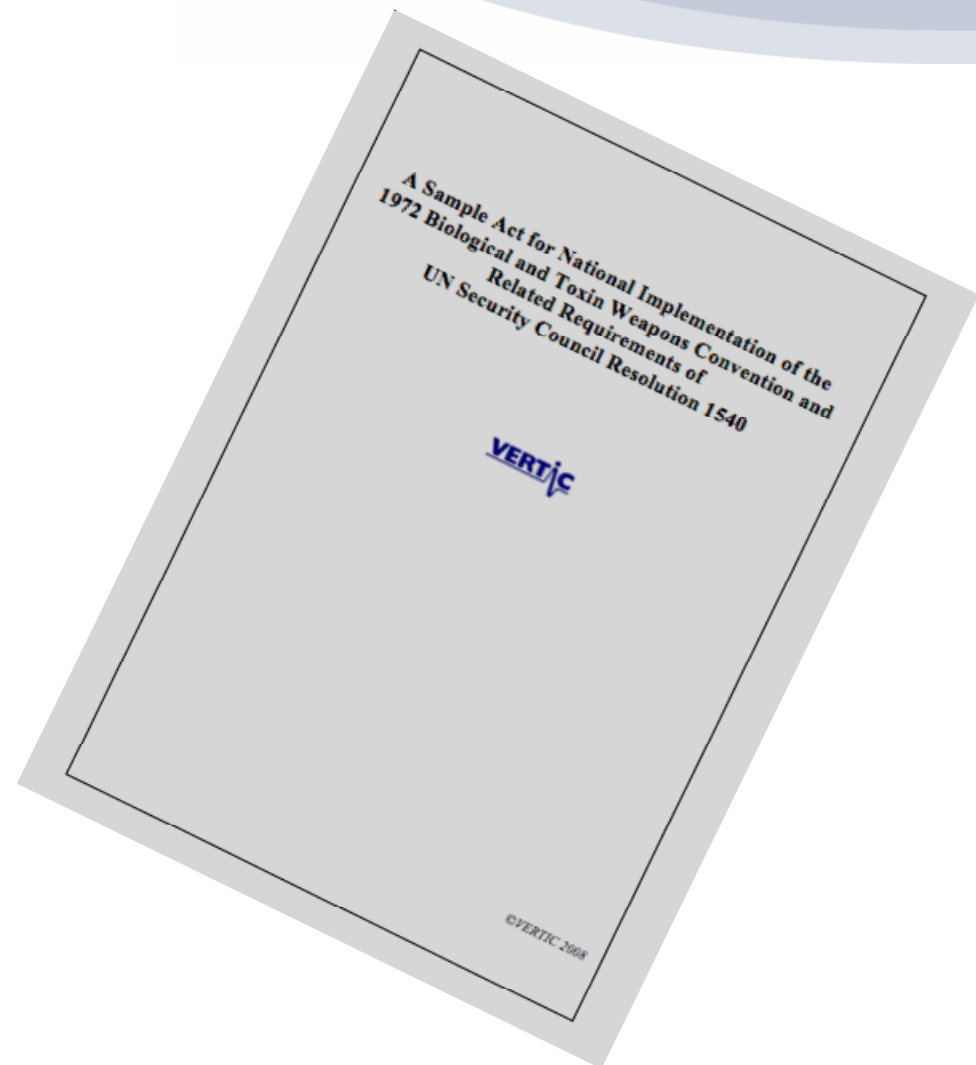
VERTIC provides legislative drafting tools and fact sheets for States' guidance and use ...

- The drafting tools are only a **starting point** - no one size fits all - and should be **tailored** to suit each State's circumstances; on-site drafting support is available if requested:
 - ICRC-VERTIC sample legislation: 'A Model Law: The Biological and Toxin Weapons Crimes Act' (in **Arabic, English and Spanish**) (available at www.vertic.org/NIM)
 - VERTIC's 'Sample Act for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Related Requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1540' (in **Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish**) (available at www.vertic.org/NIM)
 - VERTIC's 'Regulatory Guidelines for National Implementation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Related Requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1540' (in **Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish**) (available at www.vertic.org/NIM)
- We have fact sheets for the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons treaties as well as a BTWC National Authority fact sheet (in **Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish**)

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Sample Act in Arabic,
English, French,
Russian, and Spanish



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*Regulatory Guidelines in
Arabic, English, French,
Russian and Spanish*



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*BWC, CWC and National
Authority Factsheets in Arabic,
English, French, Russian,
and Spanish*



VERTIC is working with Governments to implement the BTWC and UNSCR 1540 ...

- We have over 20 open files – States we are actively engaged with
- To date, we have completed 81 surveys for countries in all regions of the world – we will complete 140 by the BTWC 7th Review Conference in 2011
- We have provided direct, cost-free assistance to a dozen States, either remotely or in capital, in the past year
- VERTIC has received funding to hire an Arabic-speaking lawyer for its NIM Programme

VERTIC co-operates with partners, including participation in their activities –

- UNSCR 1540 Committee and its experts
- OPCW
- IAEA
- BWC Implementation Support Unit and UNODA
- UNODC
- ICRC
- WHO
- Governments of Canada, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States
- Civil society: Green Cross and Global Green, BWPP, HSP...

VERTIC carries out other activities to promote co-operation and co-ordination –

- VERTIC sponsored a meeting of Legal Officers involved in implementation of the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons treaties in London in January 2008 – the report is available at www.vertic.org
- We co-hosted a biosecurity conference in Amman, Jordan in October 2008
- We co-hosted a conference with Clingendael to further enhance technical and policy co-ordination and co-operation among the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons treaty regimes and vis-à-vis the 1540 Committee in March 2009 – copies of the report are available at our table

On a final note ... national implementation of the chemical and nuclear weapons treaties

- VERTIC reviews and comments on existing or pending legislation, including omnibus WMD (weapons of mass destruction) bills, in co-operation with the OPCW and IAEA
- We work with Governments to draft legislation (whether new or to amend existing legislation) for the implementation of the chemical and nuclear weapons treaties, in co-operation with the OPCW and IAEA

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