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*The Trench*

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# **CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES**

*OBJECTIVES, PROCESS AND TOOLS*

# CBMs: Aim and Role

“ ...to **prevent or reduce** the occurrence of **ambiguities, doubts and suspicions**, and in order to **improve international cooperation** in the field of peaceful biological activities”

- Enhance transparency, strengthen trust & build confidence
- Establish a picture of current activities
- Element of compliance – not a tool for verification
- Opportunities for cooperation on peaceful use

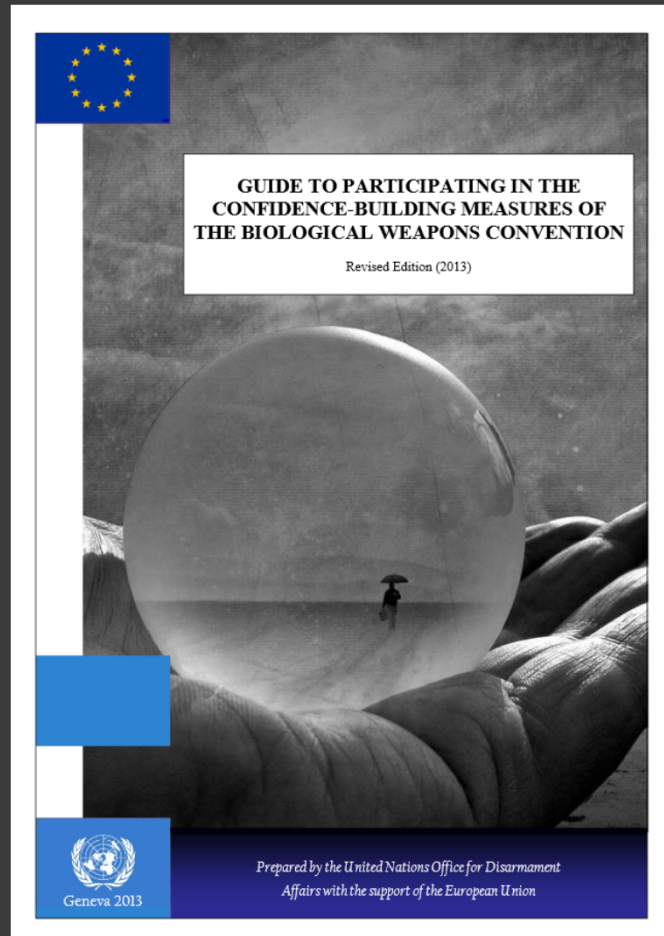
# Current CBM Forms

<b>CBM A</b>	<i>Part 1:</i> Exchange of data on research centres and laboratories <i>Part 2:</i> Exchange of information on national biological defence research and development programmes
<b>CBM B</b>	Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious disease and similar occurrences caused by toxins
<b>CBM C</b>	Encouragement of publication of results and promotion of use of knowledge
<del><b>CBM D</b></del>	Deleted (2011 Review Conference)
<b>CBM E</b>	Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures
<b>CBM F</b>	Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes
<b>CBM G</b>	Declaration of vaccine production facilities

# CBM Submission

- ⦿ Annual submission deadline: **15 April**
- ⦿ Information covering the previous year
- ⦿ Submission by email
  - Also possible by fax or postal mail
- ⦿ Published on the restricted website
  - Only CBMs **marked as public** will also be accessible to the general public

# CBM Guide



- About this guide
- Introducing the Confidence-building Measures (CBMs)
- Practicalities for submission
- Getting started: identifying resources and contacts
- Detailed guidance on completing the forms
- Subsequent submissions: Maintaining and updating data
- Getting help: Sources of advice and assistance
- National Contact Point information form
- Sample letters for requesting CBM information

# Organising for the CBM process

## ◎ National Point of Contact

- Coordinates BTWC national implementation
- Prepares CBM submissions
- Communication & information exchanges with other States Parties and international organisations

## ◎ Local Focal Points

- In relevant ministries, departments, agencies or other national bodies
- Assist the National Point of Contact

# Your benefits in participation

- ◎ **Government awareness of BTWC**
  - Permanently updated knowledge of status of national implementation
  - Oversight of relevant biological activity within your country
- ◎ **Promotes inter-agency coordination**
- ◎ **Opens doors to**
  - international cooperation
  - science and technology exchanges, and
  - trade opportunities in areas of life sciences and biotechnology
- ◎ **Opportunities for assistance with setting up the CBM process**
  - European Union Action Plan
  - Requests to the BTWC Implementation Support Unit

# On the Internet

[www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms](http://www.unog.ch/bwc/cbms)

The screenshot displays the website for the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) at UNOG. The page is titled "The United Nations in the Heart of Europe" and "Disarmament". The main navigation menu on the left includes: Conference on Disarmament, Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention, **The Biological Weapons Convention**, Latest Information, Membership, Assistance and Cooperation, **Implementation**, Science and Technology, Meetings and Documents, Implementation Support Unit, BWC Action, 2009-2011 EU Joint Action, 2006-2007 EU Joint Action, About Biological Weapons, The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. The "Implementation" link is circled in red, and a red arrow points to the "Implementation" section of the page content. The "Implementation" section includes a sub-menu with "National Implementation Database", "Intersessional Work", "Building Confidence", "Participating in the CBMs", "CBM Returns", and "CBM Intersessional Work". The "Participating in the CBMs" and "CBM Returns" links are circled in red. The "BWC Action" link in the bottom left navigation menu is also circled in red. The main content area features three images: a conference room, a laboratory, and a person in a lab coat. The "Implementation" section text states: "In order to fully implement the BWC, States Parties are obliged to translate the commitments found in the Convention into effective national action. Article IV of the Convention requires each State Party to 'take any necessary measures to prohibit and prevent the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, or retention of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery specified in Article I of the Convention, within the territory of such State, under its jurisdiction or under its control anywhere'. These necessary measures depend on the circumstances and legal systems of each State Party, and as such there can be different approaches to implementing the provisions of the Convention nationally." Below this, it mentions the Seventh Review Conference and lists several implementation measures:

- Implementing voluntary management standards on biosafety and biosecurity
- Encouraging the promotion of awareness of obligations to the Convention as well as relevant national legislation amongst those working in the biological sciences and related professionals in the private and public sectors
- Encouraging the development of education programmes and voluntary codes of conduct to promote a culture of responsibility for those with access to biological agents and toxins relevant to the Convention
- Strengthening methods and capacities for surveillance and detection of outbreaks of disease at the national, regional and international levels



# Contact information at UNOG

- Website:

[www.unog.ch/bwc](http://www.unog.ch/bwc)

- Address:

***BWC Implementation Support Unit***

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# THE TRENCH

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