Russian Federation initiative to strengthen the BTWC

Dr Jean Pascal Zanders
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Formal verification

- **Centrality of international organisation**
  - Division of labour between IO and individual states parties
  - Verification of activities
  - Verification of treaty obligations (e.g., implementation legislation)
  - Investigation of alleged use of prohibited weapons in armed conflict

- **States can enhance the verification system**
  - On bilateral or regional basis
    - Supplementary verification activities
    - Assistance
  - Open sources and national intelligence
    - Options for bilateral consultations or action through IO

- **Civil society: supplementary roles**
  - Analysis and reporting on national compliance
  - Open source analysis and reporting
  - Raising concerns about the integrity of the norm (e.g., incapacitants & CWC)
Stakeholder roles in BTWC transparency regime

Augmented State Party action

- Conformity of activities
  - Compliance anomaly resolution
  - Inquiry into alleged use

- Enhancing transparency
  - National inspections
  - Peer review
  - Bilateral inspections
  - Intra-regional inspections

- Fulfillment of obligations
  - National implementation
  - National authority
  - Safety and security standards
  - Cooperation and assistance
  - Confidence-building measures

- Assessment implementation standards / CBMs

- Open-source analysis

- Maintenance of norm

- Investigation of alleged use

- Innovative thinking
  - Verification concepts
  - Long-term strategic thinking

- Civil society activity

- Implementation support
  - Local civil society stakeholdership
  - Universalisation
  - Implementation assistance

UN Secretary-General’s Mechanism to investigate alleged BW use

BTWC ISU
Verification in the BTWC context

- All transparency-related activities originate with the states parties
  - No formal verification system
  - Confidence-building measures (CBMs)
  - Can be undertaken bilaterally (with reporting to state party meetings)
  - No sanction if a state party remains passive
  - Investigation of alleged use
    - UN Secretary-General retains full autonomy to initiate an investigation
    - States Parties have possibility to consult with each other in case of compliance concerns (Art. V), but retain right to take complaint to UN Security Council (Art. VI, 1)

- No international organisation
  - Implementation Support Unit (ISU) assists states parties with meetings, coordinates CBM collection and facilitates interactions between states parties in areas such as cooperation and assistance
  - ISU is part of UNODA, not an independent structure

- Triple role for civil society possible
  - Similar functions as with formal verification system
  - Active involvement in universalisation and implementation assistance, including building local civil society activity
  - Innovative thinking on future of the BTWC, including options for a formal verification system