

CWC: universality & civil society contributions

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The Trench

Chemical Weapons and the Middle East

Education day for NGOs and reporters

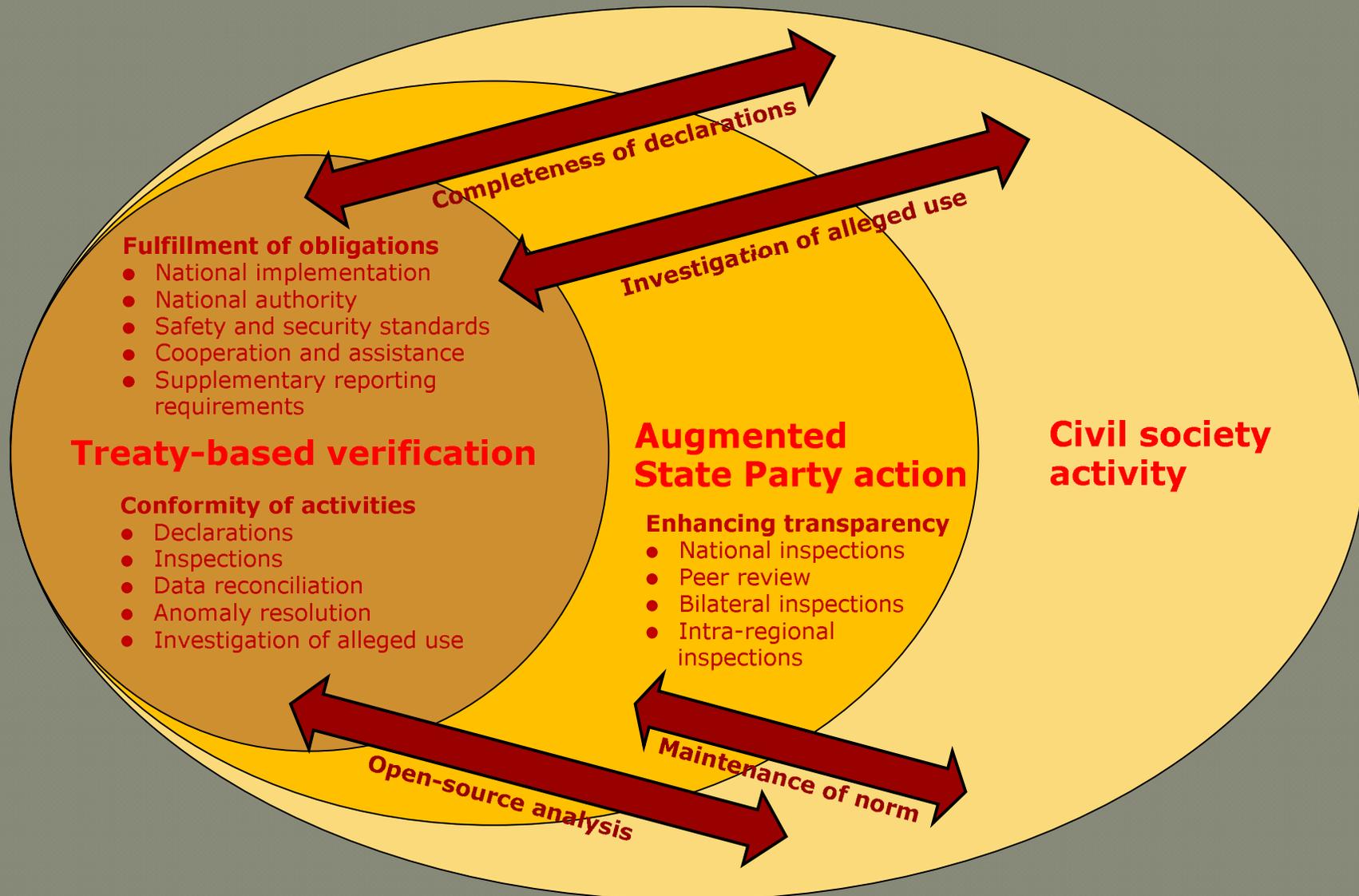
organised by Israeli Disarmament Movement & the CWC Coalition

Tel Aviv, 10 November 2014

Status CBW prohibition in ME

	Geneva Protocol	BTWC	CWC
Algeria	08.01.1992	22.07.2001	29.04.1997
Bahrain	20.10.1988	28.10.1988	29.04.1997
Egypt	06.12.1928	[Sign: 10.04.1972]	[-]
Iran	03.08.1929	22.08.1973	03.12.1997
Iraq	07.04.1931	19.06.1991	12.02.2009
Israel	22.01.1969	[-]	[Sign: 13/01/1993]
Jordan	10.10.1976	30.05.1975	28.11.1997
Kuwait	03.01.1971	18.07.1972	28.06.1997
Lebanon	03.03.1969	26.03.1975	20.12.2008
Libya	17.10.1971	19.01.1982	05.02.2004
Morocco	27.07.1970	21.03.2002	29.04.1997
Oman	[-]	31.03.1992	29.04.1997
Qatar	18.04.1976	17.04.1975	03.10.1997
Saudi Arabia	10.01.1971	24.05.1972	29.04.1997
Syria	11.09.1968	[Sign: 14/04/1972]	14.10.2013
Tunisia	15.05.1967	18.05.1973	29.04.1997
UAE	[-]	19.06.2008	28.12.2000
Yemen	26.01.1971	01.06.1979	01.11.2000

Civil society roles in a formal verification regime

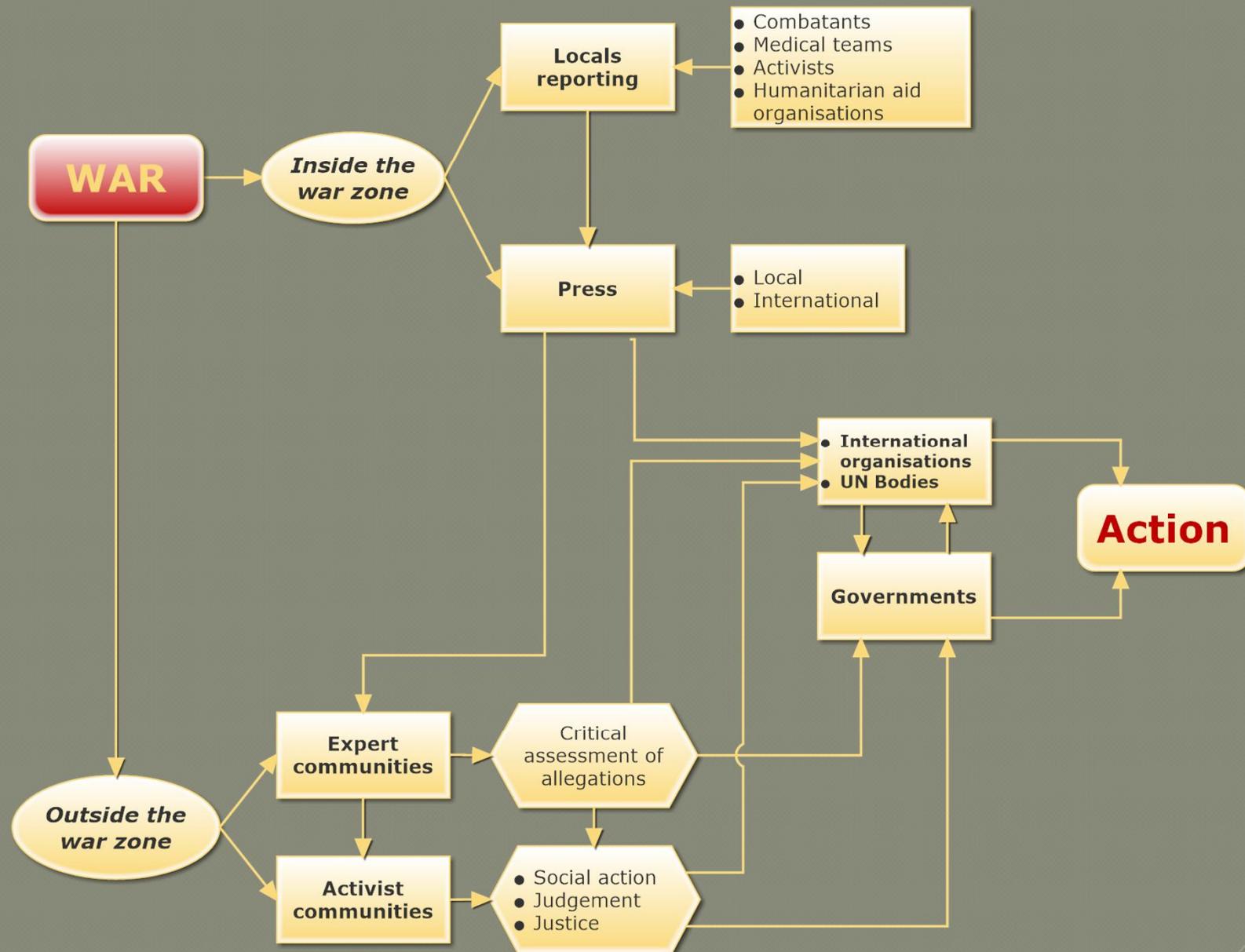


Based on a concept by Stian Holen, October 2012

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)

CBW allegation: Possible civil society contribution



Allegations of use

- Task differentiation between civil society constituencies in a war zone and those outside it
- Independent reporting and analysis crucial to
 - Mobilisation of international action
 - Restraint on certain types of international response (e.g., military retaliatory strikes vs. application of international treaties and mechanisms)
 - Challenge claims to counter propaganda purposes of allegations
 - Inform the public debate on issues and possible options and constraints
- Allegations bring in different types of civil society constituencies who will press for different courses of action, irrespective of the status of relevant international law.

Challenges for civil society

- Multi-stakeholder environment
 - On both national and international levels
 - Interests may coincide, compete or conflict (even among civil society constituencies)
- How to get reports and messages to the appropriate decision-making levels?
 - Often sent to mid-level bureaucracies, with no guarantee to transferral to higher echelons
 - Outreach to press necessary, but with very limited impact ➤ danger of sensationalism
- Impact of funding scarcity
 - Funding source (e.g., a state party) may limit opportunity for independent action
 - Few private foundations; now often government money for specific projects in support of current diplomatic priorities (limits opportunities for strategic thinking)
 - Competition for scarce funds among civil society constituencies ➤ reinforces tendencies to conform proposals to government priorities of the moment (e.g., topics of the intersessional process, even though these may have little to do with disarmament or the future of the BTWC)
- Civil society – government relationships
 - Some NGOs / academic units have become virtual private contractors to governments
 - ‘Revolving door’ practice: who wants to jeopardise possible position in a government?
 - Raises questions about quality of oversight of national activities (if this is what they still do)
- Single issue NGOs focus on a narrow matter for a limited time, but with little interaction with the broader civil society community (limits impact)
- How universal is civil society coverage?
 - In many countries (e.g., India, Russia, Sri Lanka) the independence of civil society activity (and funding) is becoming increasingly challenged; in many other countries NGO activities are all but banned.
 - A rising view in other parts of the world that civil society serves ‘Western’ interests
 - View is reinforced by civil society – government relationships in Europe and North America



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