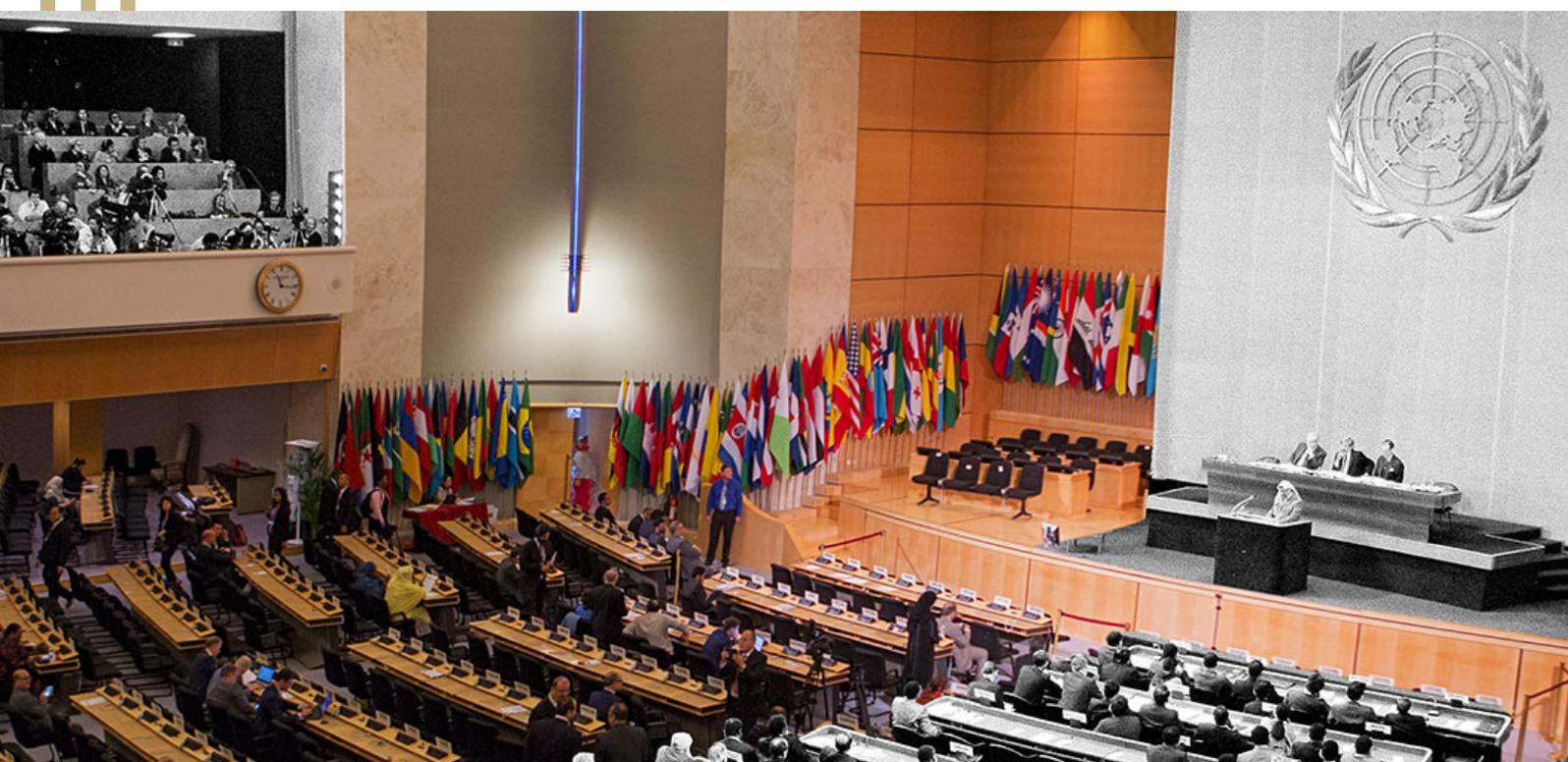


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*"100 Years of Multilateralism:  
Taking Stock and Preparing  
the Future"*



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# ENHANCING MULTILATERALISM IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

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# PART 1- BACKGROUND

## INTRODUCTION

On 25 September 2018, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), António Guterres, surmised: “Our world is suffering from a bad case of “Trust Deficit Disorder.” Guterres’ observation was strategically made at the General Assembly. He was particularly referring to the eroding trust given to society in this age. Trust in political institutions, governments and mechanisms for advancing progress in the world is waning among citizens in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As a result of this *trust deficit*<sup>1</sup>, certain actors and supporters of concepts such as populism and nationalism are advancing their agenda vigorously. With their key platforms reverberating across the globe, the emphasis on multilateral cooperation is “under fire” (Guterres, 2018). Furthermore, some have questioned the process of multilateralism for being “slow and opaque” (Gurria, 2019). In the face of these increasing challenges, the practice of multilateralism has played a significant role in building cooperation among states, governments and citizens of the world.

As 2019 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the practice of multilateralism globally, there are certain overarching questions that need truthful answers. Some of these questions include: Are there gains of multilateralism in the last 100 years? Are there aspects of multilateralism that need expunging or strengthening? Is there a future for multilateralism? If yes, what is its future in the next 100 years? In other words, it is pertinent to review what has worked, what is working and what should work.

With the advent of globalization, issues previously inexistent have risen such as terrorism, cyber threats, and climate change. Moreover, some issues like migration have been existing beforehand but presently have become more prominent, owing to their escalating political salience.

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<sup>1</sup>This term will be defined later in the text.

The boundaries between domestic and global affairs are fading away, and countries do not have the luxury to put themselves first. This brings multilateralism to the fore. In spite of the shortcomings of the UN, it has continuously served as an institution based on multilateralism that vows to ensure global interactions and coordination that increase the velocity of diffusion of ideas, reasoning, and solutions between states.

It is within this context that this paper explores the theoretical, historical and evolutionary process of multilateralism in the last 100 years. With a focus on the United Nations, this paper examines its role and suggests ways how to advance its multilateral objectives across the globe in the next century. The first part of this paper tackles the several theoretical underpinnings of the concept of multilateralism. The next part looks into the historical background of multilateralism with a focus on the evolutionary processes that have taken place since its inception. The third part analyses the strengths and weaknesses of multilateralism. A section is also devoted to unpacking a current trend that is happening across the globe, particularly the trust deficit disorder. Finally, some suggestions are proffered to strengthen the impact of the United Nations.

## **THEORETICAL APPROACHES**

Nearly thirty years ago, the political scientist, Robert Keohane, complained that multilateralism was not well defined (Keohane, 1990). Today, multilateralism is a commonly used term in international politics; however, there is still a lack of consensus about a shared definition of what is referred to when this term is used.

While *multilateral* articulates a practice between three or more actors, *multilateralism* can be described as an ideology or a belief to regulate that practice (Ruggie, 1990). Therefore, multilateralism can describe a diplomatic practice (Claude, 1958), a political ideology or belief (Ruggie, 1990) or it can also refer to a categorization of obligations in the international law (Dominice, 1999). It can be understood as a means to an end, or indeed an end in itself. Hence the question arises, when the term is used in practice, what exactly does it refer to?

Multilateralism can be understood as a methodological framework that governs the behavior of international actors in order to create a compromise or facilitate their self-interests. Some scholars associate qualitative and quantitative methodological terminologies to understand multilateralism (Caporaso, 1992)

Keohane's neoliberal approach was primarily in quantitative terms. In his words, he describes the concepts as the following:

“Multilateralism is the practice of coordinating national policies in groups of three or more states, through ad hoc arrangements or by means of institutions.” (Keohane, 1990, p. 731)

Thus, he places multilateralism on a spectrum of unilateralism and bilateralism. The defining feature of multilateralism is the number of states that participate in the coordinated activity, although the nature and scope of the actual activity is less clear. However, this quantitative approach not only limits multilateral participation to states but also ignores the qualitative aspects that constitute the defining features of multilateralism. These features are further elaborated by John Ruggie (1992). These qualitative definitions of multilateralism focus on the presence of specific principles that guide collective actions or agreements that are universally applied to all of the actors involved, namely, indivisibility, generalized organized principles and diffuse reciprocity (Ruggie, 1992):

- *Indivisibility* refers to the fact that the global challenges today cannot be divided according to territories, and so the responses to them must be unified as well.
- *Generalized organizing principles* are the commonly accepted rationally-driven moral principles that must be arrived at through consensus.
- *Diffuse reciprocity* refers to achieving the future goals at the expense of short-term compromises by creating an atmosphere of coordinated collaboration among the involved actors. It means that the involved actors should be highly future-oriented by investing trust in the present with a mind of reshaping the future. Hence, multilateralism creates and facilitates trust among the involved actors to achieve value-oriented future.

In the field of International Relations, multilateralism means multiple countries working in a concerted effort on a given issue. As defined by Kahler Miles (1992), multilateralism is an international governance of the many, and its central principle was opposition to bilateral discriminatory arrangement. These arrangements are believed to enhance polarity between powerful and weak entities, and thus, may lead to an international conflict.

### *Towards a definition*

From merely describing multilateralism, this section is devoted towards a definition of the concept. Multilateralism is a political-institutional ideology constituting at least three international actors participating in sustained cooperation according to pre-specified normative principles. The suffix “-ism” indicates doctrinal adherence, and thus must be defined as an ideology. The political-institutional notion refers to the fact that it is not only an ideology in the field of International Relations but also an institutional organization principle.

Contemporary quantitative definitions restrict multilateralism to cooperation between states. However, as discussed in the following sections, the role of non-state actors can no longer be ignored. Qualitatively, there is a need to emphasize sustained efforts towards cooperation.

By this definition, regional cooperation very much represents multilateralism in action. Neoliberal skepticism has focused on multilateralism’s universalist aspiration. However, it is not important that all international actors be involved in every single decision, but rather that all relevant actors participate in making decisions that concern them.

Multilateralism has some enduring defining features as listed above. At the same time, it is adopted and practiced in a socio-political context that it cannot be removed from. Thus, there are some additional features of multilateralism that are more descriptive than defining, but which inform contemporary understanding of multilateralism nonetheless.

An important feature of multilateralism is the inclusion of non-state actors in international relations. Keohane (1990) may not have been wrong to exclude non-state actors from a definition

of multilateralism, but in contemporary times, the sheer scale of transnational interactions involving non-state actors makes it impossible to exclude them from international decision making (Forman and Segaar, 2006).

Multilateralism involves top-down and bottom-up approaches for resolving common problems. This means adopting both a grassroots and descending approach for the resolution of problems starting from the individual level of citizens, moving upwards to the domestic level of nation states and finally involving the UN at a global level and vice-versa.

Enduring cooperation also provides a sustainable organizing principle. Actors are not only able to resolve current problems but also have the institutional framework to process future problems and this way, multilateralism serves as the lifeblood of peaceful international relations.

## **HISTORY**

In this section the different historical aspects of multilateralism throughout centuries are discussed. It touches upon the early roots of multilateralism starting from the nineteenth century until the formation of contemporary multilateralism with the creation of modern international organizations.

### ***The Earliest Roots of Multilateralism during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century***

In contemporary history, the earliest example of what can be called modern multilateralism can be traced back to the aftermath of the Napoleonic wars (Telo, 2012). After the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, the European powers agreed to consult each other regularly and regulate conflicts by conference diplomacy (*ibid*). This informal system of consulting each other was called the *European Concert*, in which the great powers of Europe took responsibility for retaining the international regulations (*ibid*). However, the increased relations and economic interactions

between the states during the 19th century required improving the regulations of the international relations system. On the other hand, the need to fight the spreading of diseases during this century was a factor behind some international councils like the *Conseil Supérieur de Santé* in Constantinople (Armstrong, Llyod & Redmond, 1996), which aimed to fight the spread of cholera in Turkey in 1838. Several councils in Tangier, Teheran, and Alexandria followed this council and led to the creation of the Sanitary Convention of 1903 and establishing the International Office of Public Hygiene in 1907 (ibid).

However, the most significant event related to multilateralism during the turn of the century were the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. The objectives of the 'Hague Conference of 1899' were ensuring the peace and defining the limitation of armament (Scott, 1915). Notwithstanding the fact that the conference of 1899 did not achieve its goals in limiting the armament, its importance lies in the fact that 26 governments from Europe and America were represented. The second Hague conference took place in October 8, 1907, where 44 states were represented (ibid).

### ***Multilateralism after the First World War and the Establishment of the League of Nations***

The historical turning point after the First World War was the Paris Peace Conference, or also known as Versailles Peace Conference, which began on the 18th of January 1919. The outcome of this conference was the signing of several peace treaties between central powers; like Trianon, Saint Germain, Neuilly and the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed on the 28th of June 1919 (Neiberg, 2017) and which objective was to define the peace terms with Germany (Teló, 2012), to end the secret diplomacy, to achieve freedom of the seas, and to reduce national armaments (Neiberg, 2017). The constitutive document of the League of Nations was included in this Treaty, and therefore, it is considered as a backbone for establishing the League of Nations. The League's

objectives were to prevent conflicts, disarmament and to solve disputes between states by enhancing negotiations diplomacy (Armstrong, Llyod & Redmond, 1996). Woodrow Wilson, the president of the United States at that time, was considered the father of the League of Nations for his significant role in establishing and drafting the Covenant (ibid).

The principles of the League of Nations were to enhance security, justiciable disputes, manage crisis, disarmament, great power concert and other organizational principles. The significance of the League of Nation was its central coordinating and directing body over several other functional organizations. The structure of the League of Nations consisted of the Council, Assembly and Secretariat. Apparently, this structure influenced the future of the international organizations. However, the League of Nations failed in solving several political crises like the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in 1931, after which Japan withdrew from the League. Also, the League could not prevent the Italian invasion against Ethiopia in 1935 and the Soviet Union attack on Finland (Armstrong, Llyod & Redmond, 1996).

One of the reasons behind this failure was the lack of universality, since the United States of America and Germany were not members of the League and some countries like Italy, Japan and several Latin America states were not members as well in various periods. Notwithstanding, the establishment of the World Health Organization and the Communications and Transit Organization are considered as achievements of the League of Nations.

### ***Post-World War II***

A rebirth of multilateralism transpired in post-World War II era. It was driven by various events such as the Bretton Woods' Conference in 1944, the Charter of the United Nations of 1945,

the birth of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1947 (Elsig, Milewicz & Sturchler, 2011). All these have espoused universalist principles with an emphasis on cooperation and diplomacy. Another crucial factor that encouraged the flourishing of multilateralism was the common goal of combating against the rising bipolar threat (Teló, 2012). The Marshall Plan, which was established in 1947 and which main objective centered on post-war reconstruction, proved to be instrumental for the revival of the multilateral diplomatic culture that prospered originally in the cradle of Europe.

In this sense that realists would contend that the rebirth of the European concept of multilateralism was inevitably intertwined with the leadership of the United States of America in order to confront the bipolar nuclear issues present at that time (Teló, 2012). In the process, Europe had to strike a balance between the new US-led global order and Europe's own regional multilateralism, as well as juggling both global and regional market liberalization - a compromise within a context that is called as embedded capitalism (Ruggie, 1992). All these increasing pressures due to globalization have paved the way to the proliferation of multilateral organizations present in different fields and for different purposes.

### ***21st Century Multilateralism***

The twenty-first century has seen the rise of other global powers from Asia-Pacific and Latin American regions that are challenging and making a dent on the long-standing concept of globalization as a Western concept, and thus, re-evaluating the notion and praxis of multilateralism. In contrast to the previous versions of multilateralism, this century is witnessing unprecedented global challenges that necessitate discussion and cooperation of all countries, both from the so-called the West and the East, the North and the South, or the developed and the developing

countries (Hampson and Heinbecker, 2011). Pressing issues such as climate change, depletion of natural resources, rising inequality, unconscionable poverty, migration, and fast-changing technology are all redefining multilateralism (Moller 2019). With the emergence of various models of capitalism, this century requires a multilateralism that demands multipolarism, and takes into account that this multipolar world is also an asymmetrical one. Within the context of a changing global order, it is worthy to point out that all states have declared their respective commitment to multilateralism albeit with a variegated version of collective leadership (Teló, 2012).

Moreover, apart from the emergence of new global powers, there are also other actors, namely the civil sector and the private sector, that have come to the fore and have taken the lead in driving multilateralism forward (Kozul-Wright and Gallagher, 2019; Moller, 2019). Due to the traditional way of doing multilateralism, there has been a growing complaint against the deficit in public participation. The traditionalist multilateralists argue that intergovernmental relations were never designed in the first place to be democratic. On the other hand, a newer breed of multilateralists advocate for a bottom-up kind of multilateralism that accentuate the participation of the civil sector (Hampson and Heinbecker, 2011). The private sector has also been tapped to cover the other issues besetting multilateralism. In particular, it has been utilised to augment the financial needs to implement the Sustainable Development Goals slated until 2030. Government institutions have also collaborated with the private sector to fund their country-driven development blueprint (Mohieldin, Subramaniam and Verbeek, 2018).

## **THE EVOLUTION OF MULTILATERALISM**

Most of the time, the notion of multilateralism is used to refer specifically to politics. However, multilateralism is a very broad concept and more complex than it appears. When a

scholar refers to multilateralism, it is not immediately clear what phenomenon needs to be studied and explained.

On one hand, supporters of the inclusion of several actors in the practice of multilateralism allude to its success and inevitable gains (Annan, 2000; Moon, 2016). On the other hand, some scholars argue that despite the increase in state and non-state actors, multilateralism is gradually being abandoned for populism, nationalism and religious supremacy movements (Snorer, 2019).

Multilateralism is not limited to politics. Beyond politics, multilateralism deals with a wide range of areas to achieve global economic and social challenges such as climate change, international trade, and conflict among states, economic development, sustainable development goals, and human rights. In order to understand multilateralism, Johannes Linn suggests it is very important to take into consideration other aspects of the concept. In particular, he refers to the “developing and maintaining rules-based and fair global economic and social relations among countries and peoples, setting widely accepted norms and monitoring their adherence, establishing networks to create, collect, and exchange knowledge and data, resolving potential conflicts among partners and competitors for global resources, markets, and influence” (Linn, 2018, p. 86).

The UN is today the most important multilateral organization. The United Nations has evolved over the years. From the number of member states to inclusion of new non-state actors and other related agencies, the organization has aimed to ensure a united world. The term ‘United Nations’ was coined by the former President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt on the 1st of January 1942. The objective was to ensure peace across the globe after the experiences of World Wars I & 2. Hence, with the support of 51 states, the United Nations came into existence in 1945 with the signing of the United Nations Charter.

The evolution of multilateralism can be addressed in two aspects: vertical and horizontal evolutions. On one hand, the vertical evolution of multilateralism means an increase in terms of member states. Since the end of World War II, multilateralism has become a new milestone among states. In fact, the number of countries increased from 51 in 1945 to 193 nowadays. With a membership strength of 51 in 1945, the organization's clear objectives were quite specific as contained in the UN Charter of 1945. However, more states joined the multilateral organization over the years. After 15 years of existence, the organization increased from 51 member-states to 80 member-states. In 1961, the membership coverage of the organization was over 104. This increase in membership-base implied the complexities involved in multilateral agreements. In 1990, 55 states joined the organization. This raised the total number of member-states to 159. As of the 2nd of July 2019, the total number of member-states of the UN is 193.

On the other hand, multilateral framework also expanded horizontally to include new actors. While this increase in the number of member-states remains impressive, the process of taking multilateral decisions cannot be compared to its early age. Apart from member-states, there is a continuous rise in the involvement of non-state actors in the United Nations such as regional organizations and other international organizations. These non-state actors are not limited to international non-governmental organizations, multinational groups, transnational diaspora communities, unrepresented peoples and nations, civil society movements, decentralized autonomous organizations, academics, international media agencies, and a wide range of strategic technical partners. New actors are involved such as NGOs, IOs, private sector, and academia. Each actor plays a critical role in addressing common issues and finding collaborative solutions to overcome global challenges. For example, the ILO brings together different stakeholders such as employers, employees, governments and other key strategic actors to address global issues.

Another example of today's multilateralism can be seen in the Paris Agreement of 2015. The agreement for the first time had all nations agree on a common cause to combat the issue of climate change. The success would not have been possible without the role of the non-state actors. These actors such as: agenda-setters, lobbyists, expert advisers, implementation partners, and enforcers were relevant in negotiations that led to the Paris Agreement of 2015. To ensure implementation of the agreement, scholars posit that the role of non-state actors remain essential (van Asselt, 2016).

In addition, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were initiated in 2015 to ensure sustainable and better future for all. With 17 goals and 169 targets, the SDGs aim to manage issues such as inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, oceans, ecosystems, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice. Significantly, these areas highlight the action plan for people, planet and prosperity in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

## **POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF MULTILATERALISM**

In this section, we highlight some of the achievements and limitations that remains in the current Multilateralism, especially focused on the United Nations system.

### **Some limitations of Multilateralism**

When the UN is seen as an indicator of multilateralism, it is undeniable that the system is **slow** (Gurria, 2019). Most times, reaching a compromise between states is a time-consuming task,

especially in times of crisis when urgent decisions are needed. Unilateral decision in this case would seem more effective.

The lack of **robust enforcement mechanism** is also seen to be a disappointing feature of multilateralism in the UN system. This is a result of the non-binding nature of some arrangements. In consequence, there are many examples of states failing to comply or withdrawing from the arrangements without any further recriminations. While this is the case in the UN, not every international institution follows this example and some of them, such as the EU, have been able to implement binding rules for its states-member. This has however been only possible through a common consent from every member-states which is rarely the case in the UN system.

There can be concerns that some states might have used multilateral efforts to **advance their ideas and interest**. The clash between states with different ideologies (e.g. those advocating for interference and non-interference (sovereignty) use of veto system, favoring certain states) tends to provide a platform for perpetuation of crisis.

Although multilateralism is meant to promote cooperation and peace, resolve disputes, multilateral efforts are criticized for the **selectivity of issues on the agenda** (Roberts and Zaum, 2013), particularly on where to intervene and where not to.

In addition, multilateralism can be seen as a **threat to national sovereignty**. While, as said earlier, the multilateral decisions often emerge from compromises after discussions between states, not all states will accept the final decisions. Some countries might feel pushed to the corner and see these decisions undermining their autonomy and sovereignty.

## **Positive Aspects of Multilateralism**

The main weakness of systems such as unilateralism and bilateralism, is that they are highly streamlined to benefit just the concerting parties. The seclusion from the crowd enabled strong coalitions often geared to mutual benefits. Whereas in a multilateralist system such as the UN, it aims to keep all member states to accept and adopt common values through dispute-resolution mechanisms, and to facilitate the negotiation process. Therefore, contrary to unilateralism and bilateralism, it is **inclusive**. Furthermore, multilateralism is based on a long-term perspective.

In the UN, the system of one vote for each member state in the General Assembly makes a good platform to hear statements and addressing concerns of each and every nation. It allows the parties to discuss their issues in order to diffuse tensions. This system recognizes that the rules and principles of the multilateral system apply to all units equally, theoretically speaking.

Multilateralism makes the global system more **transparent** than unilateral or bilateral systems. When states have more information on other states and parties, they can better predict other states' moves and avoid miscalculation which could otherwise lead to conflict. Therefore, multilateral arrangements allow a better flow of information between countries.

Diplomacy within multilateral arrangements can also be examined through the aspect of **preventive diplomacy**. Preventive diplomacy refers to actions and resolutions taken to prevent disputes from occurring between or among parties and limiting existing disputes from escalating when they occur (Boutros-Ghali, 1992). Example of multilateral accomplishment through preventive diplomacy includes economic and trade agreements, technological (CERN for example), and military agreements.

Multilateralism promotes coordination between states to act **collectively** in areas which can affect the whole international community, such as humanitarian relief, economic crises, climate

change and security. Through a system of common pooling of funds and resources, the world has a better capability to respond to different crises.

## **MULTILATERALISM UNDER THREAT**

### **The Trust Deficit Challenge**

In his address to the UN General Assembly in September 2018, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres has declared that “the world is suffering from a bad case of ‘trust deficit disorder’” (Guterres, 2018). According to Guterres, this “trust deficit” can be reflected in three aspects: the decline of trust in national institutions, among states, and in the “rules-based global order”. As Guterres claims, this ongoing process poses a major threat to the concept of multilateralism and global governance: “Multilateralism is under fire precisely when we need it most.”

From this, it can be understood that naturally, the lack of trust could be an obstacle for multilateralism. But what does it actually mean? How can mistrust affect multilateralism? And why there is such a deficit? Today, multilateralism, as we know, is changing – and with changes come challenges. Since 1945, many different regional and global intergovernmental entities have been created by states to deal with the world’s problems. This multilateral system consists of agencies, institutions, and international organizations, in which member states are interacting with each other (Langenhove, 2010). For liberals, multilateralism is a way of dealing with the anarchical nature of the global system. More provocatively, according to Langenhove, “multilateralism [...] replaces anarchy” (Langenhove, 2010, p. 263).

Different global trends and phenomena are affecting the shape of this world order, and therefore, there is a need for it to “re-synchronize” in order to maintain this kind of global governance system. Of course, multilateralism is not perfect. It did not manage to prevent all conflicts and disputes between states. But data shows that the number of cross border armed conflicts, and the number of deaths in inter-state armed conflicts, are in tremendous decline since 1946. Yet, the number of intra-state armed conflicts is rising (Dupuy et al., 2017). It can be argued that at least at the global level, cooperation through multilateralism could be the least bad option.

In this section, the current trust deficit crisis is explained, in correspondence with the following three aspects: the trust deficit among states (inter-state), between peoples and their governments (intra-state), and among states and international institutions.

### ***The Trust Deficit Among States (Inter-State)***

Political, environmental, technological, economic and social trends are continuously and constantly shaping the world and affecting the level of trust between states. The rise of populist parties and leaders, some of whom are not fond of traditional diplomatic practice, could undermine the trust among states concerning respecting international agreements and treaties (Cooper, 2019). This trend could increase suspicion and instability, and could enhance the sense of anarchy, meaning that states are questioning the concept of global governance and multilateralism which formed by international law.

Another catalyst could be the climate change. The global warming has no sovereign borders which are at the core of a multilateral system and needs a unified global response. This could lead to problems in coordinating steps to reduce emissions and investing money. As Duke argued:

“every country has an economic incentive to underinvest in reducing emissions, which, like any investment, requires near-term expenditures for long-term gains—both domestic economic benefits such as reduced energy costs and improved air quality and global benefits from addressing climate change. Such free-riding countries hope that others will collectively do enough to contain global warming” (Duke, 2019).

Finally, concerning technology, there are issues concerning cyber-security. Cyber threats have no physical borders and could challenge the sovereignty principle in international law. This could also lead to further mistrust among states.

### ***The Trust Deficit Inside States (Intra-State)***

Gradual loss of trust between people and their national institutions can be noted in the wave of nationalism and populism that have swept many European and Western States in recent years (Algan, Papaioannou, Passari, & Guriev, 2018; Dustmann et al., 2017; Gifford, 2006; Lazaridis, Campani, & Benveniste, 2016; Roth, 2017).

Starting with the European example: while this Union was constructed as a supranational project to unify multiple states and ensure peace and cooperation with a relative success, it is now challenged by domestic parties criticizing the European economic and political institutions’ model (Algan, Papaioannou, Passari & Guriev, 2018). In the past years, following the incapacity of their local governments to properly respond to the global financing crisis, terrorist threats and the migration crisis, mistrust towards national governments has increased globally. This has led to a rise in nationalistic and populist parties that highlighted a system of favoring elites and leaving a large part of the population still vulnerable.

For instance, Algan et al. (2018) found that there is a strong link between unemployment and political distrust. They argue that there is a strong connection between economic security and values and beliefs, thus explaining the wave of success of anti-establishment, non-mainstream and conservative parties throughout Europe (Algan et al., 2018; Foster & Frieden, 2017).

Foster & Frieden (2017, p. 4) also argued that the level of trust in national government also depends “on the extent to which people feel government is serving their material interests”. Age and level of education - specifically, older and less educated people - also play a role when looking at trends in euro-skepticism and distrust towards national institutions (Dustmann et al., 2017a).

Finally, intra-country level of wealth can also influence the trust between citizens and their governments, and richer countries have seen their population questioning their governments’ decisions (Foster & Frieden, 2017).

### ***The Trust Deficit from States towards Global Governance Systems***

As previously mentioned, unclear power relations, withdrawal of several “key players” in international cooperation arrangements, presence of non-state actors and questioning the pertinence of several international institutions such as the UN, is a reflection of the loss of trust in the rules-based global order (Brunnée, 2018; Langhorne, 2005).

While no real global governance system truly exists, many international organizations have had the mission to normalize certain rules at the global level: World Trade Organization (WTO), International Labor Organization (ILO), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), to name a few. But it would be good to ask, “What are these fundamental rules that all are going to respect and how to make sure everyone abides by them?” Indeed, while these institutions have been created in response to global problems, decisions satisfying and being

followed by everyone is a real challenge (Cavanaugh et al., 2014; Jørgensen, 2006). Social, economic and environmental norms difficult to apply at a universal level exposed some clear examples of international failures in terms of decision-making and again highlighting the question of the real capacity of the international community to coordinate globally. Indeed, as it has been criticized before, the power of action of these multilateral institutions stops when sovereignty of states becomes under threat since these arrangements are generally non-binding and they follow the international law's generalized principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, or the prohibition on the use force (Brunnée, 2018).

## **PART 2 - FUTURE**

### **EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS**

#### **The Achievements of Multilateralism**

Although Multilateralism has faced several challenges throughout history, it has however, played a significant role at all levels with regard to enhancing international peace, defining rules for fair trade, protecting the environment, fighting climate change, preventing violation of human rights and developing policies for development, launching aid policies to fight food shortage and support the disaster recovery.

#### ***Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution***

The rationale behind the creation of the UN was to save the future generations from the scourge of war, following the havoc wrought about by the two world wars. With regard to peacekeeping and conflict prevention functions, the UN has able to either prevent or end various conflicts through the actions mandated by its Security Council, the organ tasked primarily by the

United Nations Charter to maintain and secure international peace and security. The activities and strategies that the Security Council has carried out involves issuing ceasefire directives, deploying peacekeeping operations, negotiating settlements between parties in conflict, and issuing economic sanctions like trade embargoes.

The first peacekeeping mission deployed by the UN was in 1948 when the Council established the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East with the goal of monitoring the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its neighboring Arab countries. From then on, the UN has exhausted different mechanisms and possibilities to maintain its peacekeeping functions, trying to adapt to the needs of the countries involved and the context at hand. Throughout the past decades, the UN has taken recourse through preventive actions, trying to detect threats of possible conflicts beforehand. One strategy that has demonstrated success is the coordination done by a skilled envoy in preventing the escalation of a war. The other strategy of the UN that has proven to be favorable is its preventive disarmament approach. In the case of El Salvador, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for instance, the UN was able to demobilize combat forces. Most recently, starting in the 90s after the Cold War, the UN has become instrumental in ending civil wars by negotiating peace settlements such as what happened in the case of Guatemala, Namibia, Cambodia, and Burundi.

Through multilateralism the world has been able to prevent a confrontational military war involving all countries since the end of the first world war. As of 1945, the United Nations has been credited with negotiating 172 peaceful settlements that have ended regional conflicts (United Nations Peacekeeping Fact Sheet,2007). An example of such success can be traced in the case of Sierra Leone, where a mission was sent in 1999 and where we observe today a certain recovery and peace in the country thanks to it (UNAMSIL, 2009). On the 12th of August 2006, the UN

approved the resolution No. 1701, which states on the immediate ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel, after a conflict emerged between the two states on 12 July 2006. Thus, this multilateral action contributed successfully in preventing the continuity of this conflict. Other successful missions can be highlighted: The AU-UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in 2007, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Haiti and Kosovo (source). By providing basic security guarantees and responding to crises, these UN operations have supported political transitions and helped buttress fragile new state institutions. They have helped countries to close the chapter of conflict and open a path to negotiations. This demonstrates a degree of success through multilateralism.

### ***Management of Global Diseases***

Multilateralism, through a number of agencies, has been effective although with limited success in terms of responding to some pressing global diseases. Halting and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 (as targeted in the MDGs) was not met, although the number of new HIV infections fell by around 40% between 2000 and 2013 (WHO, 2018). The success of multilateralism reached its peak at health level in fighting the disease Ebola. As a reaction to the outbreak of the Ebola virus, the UN approved the resolution No. 69/1 on 19 September 2014 to launch the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. This Mission implied the deployment of financial, logistical and human resources to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to support fighting the Ebola. The mission accomplished its main objective that was to scale up the response on the ground and was closed on 31 July 2015 (UNMEER,2019)

### *Refugee Crisis*

Multilateralism is playing an important role regarding the refugee crisis by bringing several countries to contribute in protecting refugees and immigrants. The UN responded to these movements of refugees and approved several multilateral resolutions like Resolution No. 71/179, which states the protection of refugees, Resolution No. 72/149 which prevents violation against women and migrant workers, and Resolution No. 71/257 which is about oceans and the law of the seas. The significant contribution of the multilateral resolutions of the UN was in 2016, when the UN General Assembly hosted a high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach. For further cooperation, the General Assembly had called in 2016 for summit at the heads of State and Government level to come up with international response regarding this crisis.

### *Climate Change*

A remarkable success of multilateralism centers on the fight against climate change. The increasing disastrous effects of climate change prompted states to adopt the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris, which went into force in November of 2016. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below two degrees centigrade. As of April 2018, 175 parties had ratified the Paris Agreement and 10 developing countries had submitted their first iteration of their national adaptation plans for responding to climate change. Despite the United States opting out of the Paris Agreement, no other state(s) has followed suit.

## ***Gender Equality, Women and Children***

Significant improvements in gender equality and children rights are notable successes brought through multilateralism. Through the adoption of Millennium Development Goal 3 on promoting gender equality, about two two-thirds of developing countries achieved gender parity in primary education. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline a framework for member states of the UN to implement policies towards the achievement of gender equality among other SDGs.

## **STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE**

Undoubtedly, multilateralism remains a viable platform for co-operation of states across the globe. As a result, there is a need to uphold the practice of multilateralism. To ensure this, the following strategies are suggested in order to strengthen the practice of multilateralism for the next 100 years.

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the 17 SDGs, which are according to the UN an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. In this section we will discuss our strategies for the future, and we will review how they correspond with the 2030 Agenda SDGs.

### ***Promoting Preventive diplomacy (SDGs 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)***



The relatively narrow focus of preventive diplomacy does not detract from its importance. If successful, it prevents the outbreak of large-scale violence and can create political space for

attending to the requisite structural reforms (UNU-CPR, 2018). An analysis of post-war effects or engaging the interests of disputing parties to something better than the impending dispute is an imperative. Preventive diplomacy can be addressed through economic, social, technological but most especially political. The SDGs are the main reference points to help with advocating preventive diplomacy. The UN can only be as powerful as its member states want it to be and for it to act promptly to disputes case in the case of intra-state conflicts. The UN can augment its support for regional and domestic intervention.

The 10th goal on inequality reduction is very important in advocating for preventive diplomacy. Intra conflict is on the rise, especially in developing economies. Protestors include minority groups and others disgruntled over something of their interests. Governments try to govern their nations as they deem fit, but there must be a deeper scrutiny as to the rebellious nature of civilians and the military.

The UN can also increase their support for these minority groups so as to understand the actual threat posed to and by these protesting groups. It could be a minority in a certain profession, a certain ethnic group or an entire nation.

The UN can also act on the nature of imbalance trade between member states through its independent agencies such as the WTO. Some inter-state conflicts have been initiated by imbalance trade activities most often regarded as trade wars. The UN being a neutral body can interfere in such cases to understand the tussle of power and how multilateral treaties can be enforced in such cases.

Preventive diplomacy appears to be a must to face the challenges of multilateralism. Despite significant efforts of the United Nations and other international actors, the international system is still facing succession of crises and the intervention of the United Nations seems to be very limited.

This section proposes preventive diplomacy as a key solution to overcome the challenges of the international system when it comes to addressing global issues. Preventive diplomacy can play a critical role in anticipating the rise of violent conflicts and identifying peaceful and sustainable ways to promote non-violence among states.

Successful preventive democracy is a unique opportunity to influence the decision-making process of the primary actors of a conflict. The idea here is to support and influence the conflict parties to make relevant decisions while staying away from the use of any sort of violence. Therefore, preventive diplomacy intervenes in targeting mainly the primary decision-making actors that are obviously the conflict parties involved in a given crisis.

To achieve these objectives, the UN must emphasize the institutionalization of preventive diplomacy. The rationale behind the institutionalization is to be implemented at different levels (state, regional and international). This innovative idea will priorities long-term mechanisms of intervention rather than short-term and urgent diplomatic operations. The United Nations must implement the following actions towards intensifying the practice of preventive diplomacy:

- Identify potential crisis at different levels (local, national, and international)
- Intervene prior to the rise of conflict among states
- Invite conflict parties to bring conflicting issues on the table of multilateralism

In summary, the UN can be more proactive and act before the rise of conflicts in any region of the world. By so doing, the multilateral band that connects 193 Member States and several non-state actors is strengthened and empowered.

### ***Junction of Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Prevention***

At the core of the United Nations Charter lies conflict prevention. Conflict management entails a gamut of actors cutting across the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, development and human rights. These pillars are different from one another but are all mutually constitutive in terms of addressing both immediate and well-entrenched causes of conflict. The peace-keeping functions and conflict management strategies of the UN have been carried out at various levels, encompassing local, national, regional and international levels, and have been in synergy with wide-ranging actors such as civil society organizations, government agencies, grassroots communities, regional and sub-regional institutions, and other international associations.

The approach of the UN regarding conflict prevention has also evolved throughout time. In 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/70/262 and S/2282, respectively) adopted resolutions about sustaining peace, specifically tackling the prevention of an outbreak or escalation of a conflict. It is within this context that the UN works at various points in the conflict cycle. The strategies of the UN, specifically that of peacekeeping and special political missions, involve dialogues with parties on the verge of a conflict, prevention of long-term risks, and establishment of inclusive and resilient societies. In recent years, the strategies have also focused more on the prevention of a conflict build-up or a recurrence of violence.

Some key elements of the UN's peacekeeping strategies are special envoys, special political missions, peacekeeping operations, regional offices, and rapidly-deployable mediation expertise. Based on experience, the major tools that have come out to be effective in preventing conflict are deployment of UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, electoral assistance, gender and

inclusion expertise, deployable political and human rights analytical capacity, and sanctions monitoring group.

***Communications and Big Data (SDGs 5, 9, 10, 16)***



The UN was established many years before the technological revolution of computers and the internet. As previously discussed, one of the trends which could potentially destabilize the multilateral system as we know it is the advancing of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How can the UN address the risks and dangers of man-made consciousness and on the other hand use it to promote collective security and well-being?

Naturally, member states may want to shape their regulations, rules, and policies regarding cyber-technology and AI. Therefore, this could restrict the UN in trying to form some sort of international regulations and rules, both civilian and military.

The UN can reinforce its involvement in the major technological platforms using AI to promote genuine cooperation between government actors, and individuals. The UN can also be a bridge in facilitating the interests of states, tech firms, innovation pioneers, and other individuals who take part in AI development and research.

The United Nations could provide this kind of framework through these three steps:

- Prediction of technological trends which could potentially pose challenges to the member states and they could affect the international system.

- Form regulation frameworks.
- Develop standards for monitoring and coordination.

The UN organs also need to cooperate to monitor and guarantee that decisions taken concerning AI that will favor the common good of the international community and citizens of the world over the self-interest of governments.

Secondly, the UN can predict the risks of machine-learning not only to states but also to individuals and vulnerable populations. Such foresight would become more and more crucial as AI technologies will merge with other types of technologies that states cannot control themselves. These technologies could reach to the hands of other actors in the system, such as terrorist groups, which could take advantage of these technologies for worse.

Another aspect of the potential impact of technology and the different opportunities that come with it could be the concept of E-Governance. As Lee-Geiller & Lee suggest, “Contemporary governments face unprecedented challenges in governing their nations with citizens' rising aspirations, discontent with the government, mistrust of government, and political apathy” (Lee-Geiller & Lee, 2019, p. 208). Different methods have been used by governments to increase the participation of their citizens in policy-making through the use of technology.

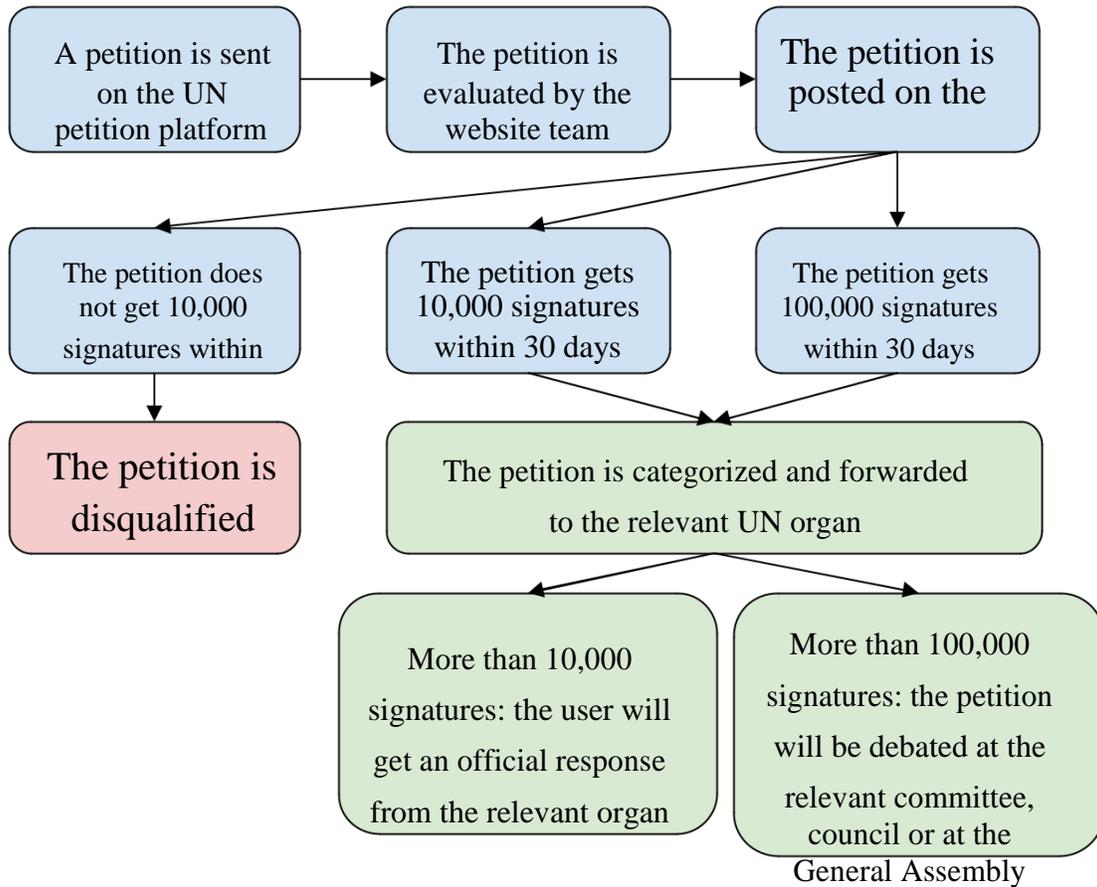
Two examples of E-Governance could be found in the petition platforms being used by the British Parliament and the White House. On the British parliament petition website (<https://petition.parliament.uk>), each British citizen can offer a suggestion and ask the government or the House of Commons a question. If a petition gets 10,000 signatures, the government will respond to the inquiry. If a petition gets 100,000 signatures, it will be considered for a debate in the parliament. A similar mechanism can be found on the White House petition website

(<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov>): If a petition gets 100,000 signatures in 30 days, the inquirer will get an official response from the White House within 60 days.

We suggest a similar platform to be implemented within the UN website, which will be consists of two sub-platforms: petitions to the UN General Assembly, the Security Council and other UN organs; and a social media platform in which people from all over the world could discuss issues dealing with the UN's agenda. The posts and petitions could be anonymous, to protect the identity and privacy of the inquirer. The community will be regulated by a UN website team that will be impartial and neutral, to maintain productive discourse. This concept could increase transparency and provide a direct communication channel between people and the UN. Especially in places where there is a conflict, or in places in which people have difficulty in getting touch with their governments. People who would like to be engaged and do not have access to the internet could reach the website by phone.

In this process, as shown in graph number one, a petition is being sent on the UN petition platform. Then, the petition will be evaluated by the website team and posted on the website. If the petition gets less than 10,000 signatures within 30 days, it will be disqualified. If it gets more than 10,000 signatures. It will be categorized and forwarded to the relevant UN organ, and the user will receive an official response from it. If the petition gets more than 100,000 signatures, it will be categorized and forwarded to the relevant UN organs and will be debated at the relevant committee, council, or UN General Assembly.

Graph No. 1: The suggested UN petition mechanism



**Reforming the UN (SDGs 16, 17)**



The UN as an international organization requires multiple reforms at multiple levels. Reforming the UN has been a major concern to the present Secretary-General and has been widely debated. Some call for radical reforms, while others suggest utopian modifications within the UN structure and agency. Impervious to such approaches, we focus on particular reforms that are either already under consideration by the UN or are possible to achieve.

Bureaucratic processes can compromise the effectiveness of the UN. One thing common to all UN organs is its overly bureaucratic system and slow working mechanisms. It is therefore important to reform the bureaucratic and administrative structure of the UN. The UN already possesses a reform agenda that focuses on its development and management sectors (UN,2017). It aims to simplify procedures and decentralize bureaucratic decision-making, to achieve greater transparency, efficiency and accountability. However, there is no set deadline by the UN as far as the achievement of these reforms is concerned. Setting a deadline makes the goals more achievable and the outcomes quantifiable.

### ***Financial Reforms***

Financial crisis undermines the capacity of the UN to achieve its mandate. The UN budget depends on financial contributions from the member states. If member states do not contribute their share on time, the ability of the UN to implement its mandate is affected. We suggest the UN to consider developing independent sources of financing.

### ***Enabling Youth Civic Participation and Engagement***

Civil society movements, especially those led by the youth, have become a part of multilateralism. Apart from promoting virtual-governance as mentioned, the UN can benefit from the youth across the world in achieving its multilateral goals. For instance, by launching and encouraging a campaign of Model United Nations across the educational sectors such as in schools, colleges and universities all over the world, the UN can reflect on their findings and reports or even incorporate their adopted resolutions in its official capacity. One step to enable youth engagement

is by creating *UN Young Ambassador Programme* apart from the existing Youth Delegate Programs. The United Nations Young Ambassadors can play a critical role in getting the United Nations closer and more engaging.

In practice, the idea draws back from models already used in the private sector but possibly applicable at the UN level. The program would select talented young people from across the world to represent and ensure outreach, public information, and public mobilization in universities, schools, public areas. In fact, this programme does not necessarily require funding because young people will be interested to serve. In exchange, this experience will contribute significantly to their professional development and will be valuable in their resumes.

However, they need to receive practical training and knowledge from senior experts of the United Nations. Again, finance cannot be an obstacle to the above-mentioned training. With the opportunities offered by *skype for business* they can be trained remotely, and the training will have the same outcomes of a traditional physical training.

These UN Young Ambassadors will be a critical piece of the puzzle when it comes to public information, engagement and mobilization. After receiving a high quality of training, they will have client-oriented skills and practices of customer service aptitudes in their DNA.

This kind of ambassador could be the first point of contact when a citizen anywhere in the world is seeking out information or inquiring about the United Nations. Given the responsibility to be a focal point when it comes to the United Nations, and an opportunity to receive relevant training from UN experts, these ambassadors will be able to answer questions and queries in a meaningful and genuine way.

By actively engaging with the public, their responsibilities include reporting to higher levels in the UN hierarchy, and provide answers to the general public in a timely manner. If implemented, this could contribute significantly in addressing current challenges of multilateralism.

### ***Revisiting Common Values***

As mentioned before, multilateralism is also an institutional organizing principle, where interaction between states is governed by some commonly-agreed upon shared values. However, just as we lacked a shared understanding of what “multilateralism” refers to, we also lack a shared understanding of what “common values” are. Finally, to be able to uphold these values, we must first revisit, renew and reaffirm our understanding of what constitutes common values.

Despite the differing sensibilities of different states, common values represent reciprocal expectations that states can have when interacting with each other. Thus, common values represent the backbone of multilateral interactions and it is time to refer back to them.

## CONCLUSION

In this paper we examined the theoretical, historical and evolutionary process of multilateralism in the last 100 years. With a focus on the UN, we emphasized its role and suggested ways to advance its multilateral objectives across the globe in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have attempted to contribute to a comprehensive presentation of the most pressing issues embattling the international community and, consequently, to provide some practical suggestions that can be carried out at international, regional, national, and local levels.

Undoubtedly, the 21<sup>st</sup> century has witnessed varied vacillations and critical junction points in the pursuit of multilateralism in a multipolar world. Given the emerging multipolar world, we have shown that despite the variegated sets of cultural values, there is still a need to uphold common universal values if the international community would want to secure a future that is just, fair and inclusive to all, regardless of race, color, and status.

Redefining the concept of multilateralism and revisiting the actual praxis of various states, we have delved into the evolving multilateral linkages that tread through both areas of cooperation and conflict. Moreover, this paper has taken stock of both convergence and divergence points of multilateral cooperation that involve a wide range of actors involving states, international institutions, local groups, civil society organizations, and private sector.

Given all these said, we posit that multilateralism still has a role to play in ensuring the cooperation of states. It is pertinent to note that multilateralism will survive the next 100 years if the aforementioned strategies are judiciously incorporated into the workings of the United Nations.

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# Achieving the Universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention: Key Messages and Implementation Strategies

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (hereafter referred to as the Convention, or BWC) was created as a proactive measure against the emerging threat of biological weapons and toxins as weapons of mass destruction. The BWC bans the development and use of biological weapons and is one of the main pillars of the UN efforts on disarmament. Currently, no countries publicly admit to the possession of biological weapons, or admit to seeking biological weapons, however this does not diminish the importance of the Convention.

Given the speed at which a pathogen could spread in our interconnected world, all States should be prepared to respond to disease outbreaks, whether natural or deliberate. Besides addressing disarmament and security issues, the BWC also supports the promotion of the peaceful use of biological science and helps to prevent the global spread of diseases. Assistance and cooperation activities take place both at the bilateral and multilateral levels under the Convention and help to build capacity in less developed countries. The first draft of the Convention, submitted by Britain, was open for signatures in 1972 and came into force in 1975 with 22 Signatory States. The 15 countries that have either not signed, or not ratified the Convention are Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Haiti, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania and Tuvalu.

This report is divided into two parts. The first part of the report focuses on providing a concise understanding of each of the 15 countries, including information on geography, relevant statistics, government, the interaction of each country with the BWC, national priorities and key messages. The second part focuses on providing an overall universalization strategy for the implementation of the BWC. This includes an explanation of general key messages, region-specific key messages, tools for implementation and potential partners for cooperation.

To this end, the main objectives pursued with this project were: 1) collecting basic information about countries who have not yet joined BWC such as socio-economic aspects; 2) examining national priorities of each country to obtain the general picture of regional positions; 3) exploring the potential tools and mechanisms to persuade these countries to access the Convention. The implementation of the formulated strategies will contribute to the support of international peace and security, intrastate social, economic and political stability, as well as multilateral cooperation to achieve common goals of sustainable development.

Overall, the BWC upholds the norm against biological weapons and provides a multilateral framework in which States Parties can collaborate to develop common interests and strategies. Achieving universalization of the Convention will ensure that States can secure a common future for generations to come.

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## 1.1. CHAD

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **Republic of Chad**



Names of Senior Officials:

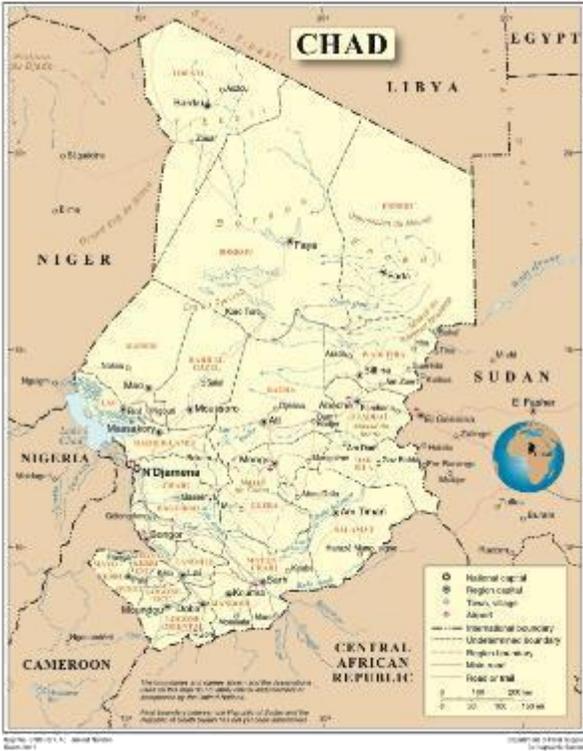
- President: **Idriss Déby Itno**
- Prime Minister: **Albert Pahimi Padacké**
- Foreign Minister: **Mahamat Zene Cherif**
- Defense Minister: **Bichara Issa Djadallah**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Makaila**

About the Country:

- Official languages: **Arabic and French**
- Population: **15,477,751** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **12** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **11.3 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **2.6** (2018)
- Capital city: **N'Djamena**

Government:

- Independence: **1960** (from France)
- Type: Republic (constitution adopted in 1996)



**Process of Ratification:**

- According to article 218 of the Constitution of Chad, "the President of the Republic negotiates and ratifies the treaties."

**Chad and the BWC:**

- In 2014, Mahamat Zene Cherif reiterated Chad’s commitment to implement resolution 1540 (2004). He also underscored his country’s full support of the Committee and said he looked forward to the comprehensive review of the resolution’s implementation.

### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties or Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	1998	1999
Arms Trade Treaty	2013	2015
Chemical Weapons Convention	1994	2004
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	1996	2013
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2008	2013
Kinshasa Convention	2010	2012
Partial Test Ban Treaty	1963	1965
Pelindaba Treaty	1996	2012
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	1968	1971

### Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- African Union
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### National Priorities and Development:

- Lake Chad is an essential source of water for millions of people in the four countries surrounding it, and there is the Armed conflict which has forced over 2.3 million people to flee their homes across the Lake Chad Basin.
- Political situation: Chad's political stability will remain vulnerable owing to heightened social tensions and the regional spread of Islamist militancy, including from Nigeria (Members of Boko Haram killed numerous persons in the country, often using suicide bombers).
- Economy: Landlocked Chad's economic development suffers from its geographic remoteness, drought, lack of infrastructure, and political turmoil. About 85% of the population depends on agriculture, including the herding of livestock. The economy will continue to recover in 2019-20 owing to an easing of the current fiscal austerity. The dominant oil sector will remain the main driver of real GDP growth.
- Health sector: insufficient quality and quantity of health workers, according to WHO.
- Human rights sector: Civilian authorities did not always maintain effective control of the security forces. The most significant human rights issues: arbitrary killings by security forces and use of torture; restrictions on freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and

movement; government corruption; violence against women and children, etc.  
(According to the US Embassy in Chad)

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention World

- Increasing transparency and engaging in trust-building and cooperation with civil society.
- Accessing the Convention would probably lead to relieve the tension in armed conflict in Lake Chad Basin. (It will increase the safety of the people of Chad as well).
- Increasing food and water security (as its economy is mostly based on agriculture sector).

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## 1.2. COMOROS

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **Union of the Comoros**



Names of Senior Officials:

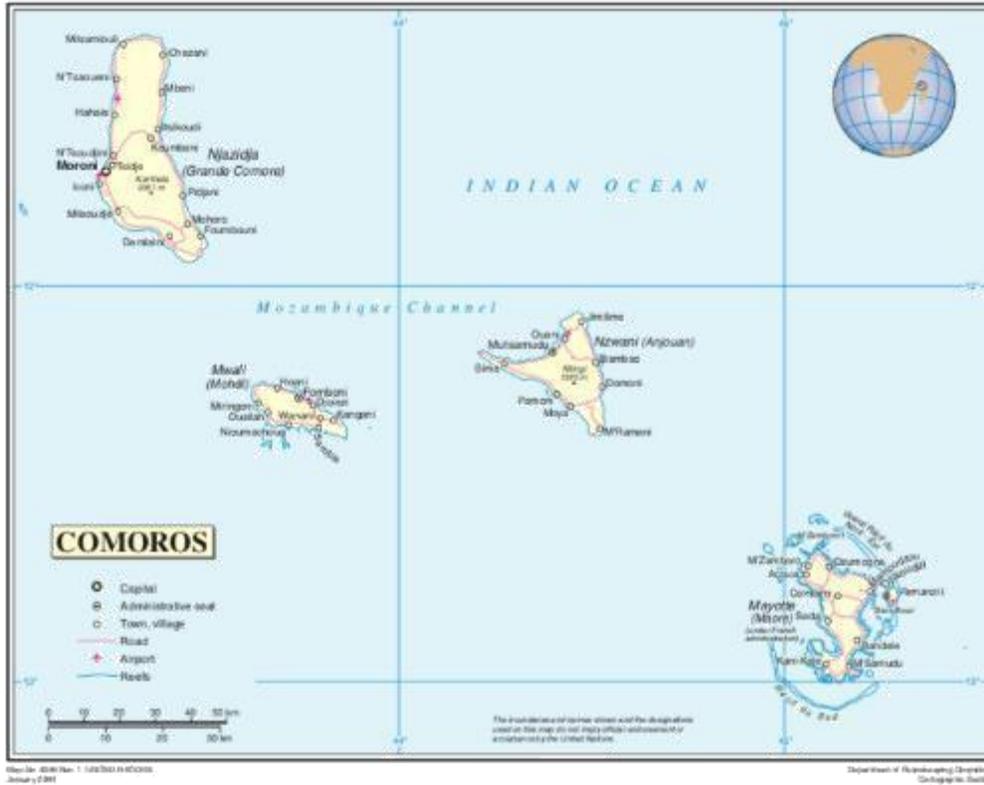
- President: **Azali Assoumani**
- Foreign Minister: **Mohamed El-Amine Souef**
- Permanent Ambassador in Geneva: **His Excellency Mr. Sultan Chouzour**

About the Country:

- Official languages: **Comorian, Arabic and French**
- Population: **832,320**(2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **457** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **1.2 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **2.8** (2018)
- Capital city: **Moroni**

Government:

- Independence: **1975** (from France)
- Type: **Federal presidential republic** (constitution adopted in 2001, amended in 2009)



**Process of Ratification:**

- According to article 12, al. 2, the President of the Union "shall negotiate and ratify treaties" since it "shall determine and conduct the foreign policy."

**Comoros and the BWC:**

- He reiterated a call to eliminate nuclear weapons and the genuine threats they pose.
- 73<sup>rd</sup> Session, General Assembly, Security Council, November 27, 2018: Comoros signed the Joint statement on “Upholding the Chemical Weapons Convention” where they are "committed to achieving the goal of freeing the world of chemical weapons."

### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention			2002
Arms Trade Treaty	2013		
Chemical Weapons Convention	1993	2006	
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban treaty	1996		
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2008	2010	
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism			2007
Pelindaba Treaty	1996	2012	
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons			1995
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	2017		

### Regional Organisations:

- African Union
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Indian Ocean Commission
- League of Arab States
- Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

### National Priorities and Development:

- Political situation: There is a high political instability (many coups d'état and attempts thereof): since 1999 the president Azali Assoumani holds both executive and legislative powers as he modified the constitution. Due to some criticism, he opened a position for a Prime Minister even though he continues to be the Head of State and Army Commander. However, Azali decided to step down to organize proper democratic elections and a new constitution. At the elections in 2004, Azali has been elected, and in March 2019, he has been re-elected.
  - o An essential number of civilians are escaping from their countries to go to the Mayotte island that is refused by the French authorities.

- The Gini Index: Comoros ranks on the worst quartile in the World Development Index, and in 2008, half of the population lived below the international poverty line of USD 1.25/day.
- Human rights: The accomplishment of Human Rights is challenging to implement because of the lack of human and financial capacities of the country even if there is political will. However, Comoros reinforced civilians and political rights, fights against torture and cruel treatments, abolished the death penalty. Regarding the elections, they are free, transparent, and democratic, and include the participation of women. Food autonomy is a priority in which the government support farmers and fishers.
- Health care: A strategic plan has been initiated to reduce infant and women mortality by free emergency first aid, halving Caesarean section fees, and sanitary infrastructure.

### Key Message: Accessing the Convention would

- Be the next step for Comoros as they are already making progress on Human rights, transparency, and trust.
- Give them greater visibility.

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## 1.3. DJIBOUTI

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full name: **Republic of Djibouti**



Names of Senior Officials:

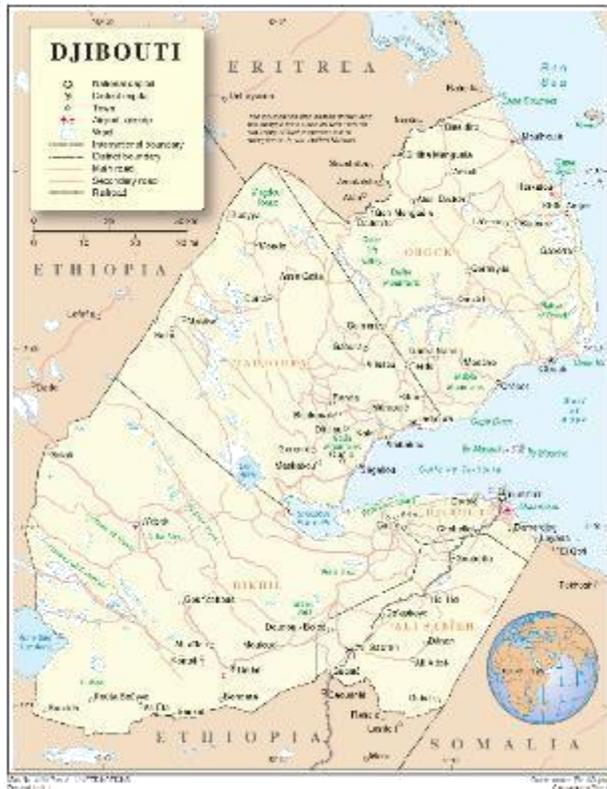
- President: **Ismail Omar Guelleh**
- Prime Minister: **Abdoulkader Kamil Mohamed**
- Foreign Minister: **Mahmoud Ali Youssef**
- Defence Minister: **Ali Hasan Bahdon**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **Her Excellency Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan**

About the Country:

- Official language: **French and Arabic**
- Population: **958,920** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **41** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **1.97 billion** (2018)
- GDP Annual Growth (%): **5.9** (2018)
- Capital city: **Djibouti**

Government:

- Independence: **1977** (from France)
- Type: **Republic** (constitution adopted in 1992 by referendum)



### Process of Ratification:

- According to article 37 of the Constitution, the President "shall negotiate and approve treaties and international conventions." These are submitted to the National Assembly for ratification.

### Djibouti and the BWC:

- During the IGAD workshop in October 2018 in Djibouti, Djibouti expressed its strong support to the accession to the Convention.
- Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (3 December 2018)
- From September to October, PGA briefed its members and other relevant stakeholders in Djibouti concerning the legal requirements and benefits of becoming a State Party to the Convention to facilitate their advocacy efforts to promote accession. Representatives from Djibouti, including the President of the National Assembly, participated in the universalization workshop that took place in Djibouti City from 3 to 4 October in cooperation with IGAD. During the meeting, strong support was expressed for accession to the Convention.

### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Acceded</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	1997	1998	
Arms Trade Treaty	2013		
Chemical Weapons Convention	1993	2006	
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	1996	2005	
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons			1996
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2010		
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism	2006	2014	
Pelindaba Treaty	1996		
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	1996	1996	

### Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- African Union
- Council of Arab Economic Unity
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- League of Arab States (Arab League)

### National Priorities and Development:

- Since the end of the civil war in the 1990s, Djibouti engaged in a moment of political stability under a dominant-party system. A national priority is to maintain this stability, for an unstable political environment would harm the primary economic sector: services (76.1% of their GDP as of 2017). Nevertheless, poverty is rife, and unemployment remains very high (around 40%). Job creation is thus one of the main priorities.
- Human rights: several human rights raise concerns in Djibouti, such as freedom of speech, minority rights, female mutilation, and arbitrary arrests.
- While Malaria is low, the WHO warns that the situation regarding malaria is somewhat unstable. Overall, the health sector in Djibouti is still overloaded with cases of malnutrition and tuberculosis. Moreover, Djibouti faces a generalized HIV epidemic.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention would

- Boost the improvement of the health sector.
- Promote job creation.
- Provide training opportunities for political representatives and other diplomatic experts on the matter.
- Increase transparency and engaging in trust-building and cooperation with civil society.
- Build trust among international actors and make Djibouti more trustworthy.

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## 1.4. EGYPT

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Status: **Signatory**

Full Name: **Arab Republic of Egypt**



Names of Senior Officials:

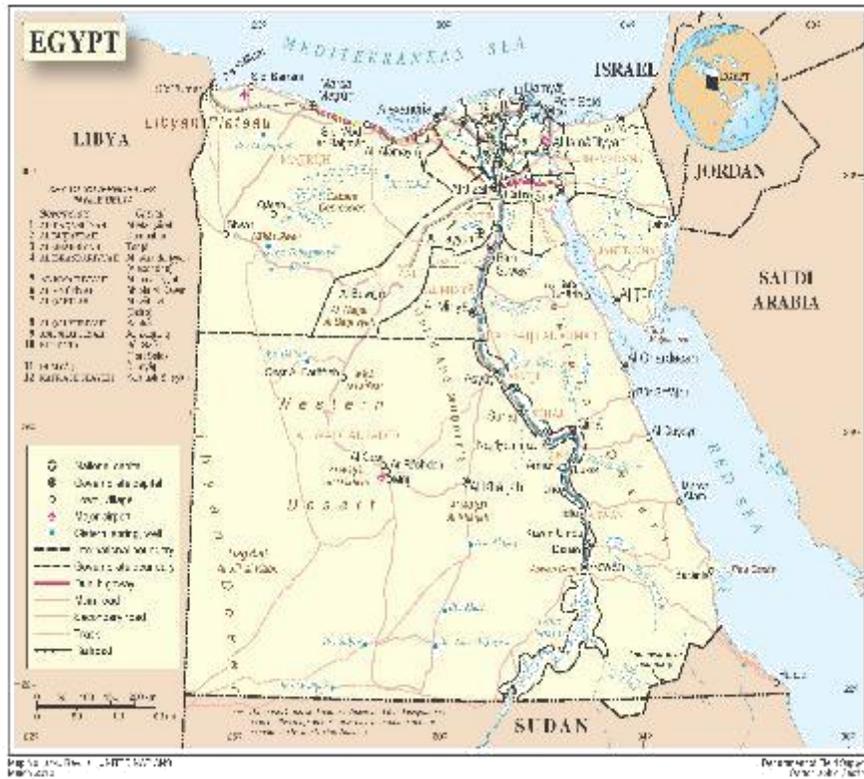
- President: **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**
- Prime Minister: **Mostafa Madbouly**
- House speaker: **Ali Abdel Aal**
- Foreign Minister: **Sameh Hassan Shoukry**
- Defence Minister: **Mohamed Ahmed Zaki**
- Ambassador in Geneva: **His Excellency Mr. Alaa Youssef**

About the Country:

- Official language: **Arabic**
- Population: **98,423,000** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **99** (2018)
- GDP (current US\$): **250.9 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **5.3** (2018)
- Capital city: **Cairo**

Government:

- Independence: **1922** (from the United Kingdom and Ireland)
- Type: **Republic** (constitution adopted in 2014 by referendum, Constitutional amendments were made at a referendum held in 2019)



## Process of Ratification:

According to the constitution, Article 151: Foreign relations

- The President of the Republic represents the state in foreign relations and concludes treaties and ratifies them after the approval of the House of Representatives. They shall acquire the force of law upon promulgation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- With regards to any treaty of peace and alliance, and treaties related to the rights of sovereignty, voters must be called for a referendum, and they are not to be ratified before the announcement of their approval in the referendum.
- In all cases, no treaty may be concluded which is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution or which leads to the concession of state territories.

## Egypt and the BWC:

- The statement made by then-president Anwar Sadat in February 1972 at a meeting of the Arab Socialist Union National Congress: "The only reply to biological warfare is that we too should use biological warfare. ... Briefly, we have the instruments of biological warfare in the refrigerators, and we will not use them unless they [Israel] begin to use them."
- The statement made by the Minister of the Interior in 1972 stated: "The enemy," presumably Israeli officials, would never use BW because they are aware that Egypt has "adequate means of retaliating without delay."

- General Assembly Sixty-eighth session: Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt. 2013:
  - o Declaring the Middle East a region free from nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons of mass destruction.
  - o The countries of the region that have not signed or ratified any of the international conventions on weapons of mass destruction should commit, before the end of 2013.
  - o Egypt will sign provided that all countries of the Middle East complete measures of accession to the international conventions prohibiting weapons of mass destruction and related arrangements and treaties.
  - o Establish a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction is convened as soon as possible
  
- Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction. 3 December 2018 – "On 11 July 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Chief of the ISU gave a presentation on the Convention to participants at a course on "Building Capacities on Arms Control in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region," organized by the Geneva Center for Security and Policy. The participants included a representative from Egypt. A representative from Egypt will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December 2018."

#### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>
Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons NPT	1968	1981	
Pelindaba Treaty	1966		
Partial test ban treaty	1963	1964	
Outer space treaty	1967	1968	
International convention for the suppression of acts on nuclear terrorism	2005		
Convention on environmental modification techniques ENMOD			1982
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons	1981		
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	1996		
Biological Weapons Convention	1972		
1925 Geneva protocol	1925	1928	

## Regional Organisations:

- African Union
- Council of Arab Economic Unity
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- League of Arab States (Arab League)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

## National Priorities and Development:

- Egypt president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is the chairperson of African union (2019-2020) – main priorities are to support AU efforts to complete African peace and security system and reform the AU Peace and Security Council, as well as reinforce continental cooperation to defeat terrorism and drain the sources of extremist thoughts. Egypt is planning to launch a high-level forum for continental dialogue under the name "Aswan Forum for Peace and Sustainable Development."
- Other priorities are economic and social development, expedite the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). Financial and institutional reform of the African Union reinforce the capabilities of the African economic groups developing of African agriculture system, manufacturing system and regional value-added chains and fishery projects in contribution to achieving food security
- Egypt is committed to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The national strategic plan's three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) are based on ten pillars covering broadly the SDGs
- Egypt embarked on an economic reform program that is supported by the international financial institutions starting November 2016. After a challenging year, economic fundamentals are stabilizing with a reduction in the fiscal deficit, curbing in the rate of inflation, waning in external deficit and increasing in the growth rate of output;
- At the national level, an overall challenge that has far-reaching implications is the high birth rate, which needs to be addressed to harness the demographic dividend.
- Water scarcity is a significant challenge in light of the high rates of population growth and production and consumption needs. Especially that the agricultural sector consumes almost two-thirds of its supply of fresh water. Ensuring sustainable water resource management is a matter of high priority to the Government of Egypt.
- At the regional level, instability in the region in neighboring states, especially Libya and Syria, has had a negative spillover effect on the Egyptian economy, mostly evident in the

tourism sector; with subsequent effects on the financial and social conditions of the country.

- In 2019 Egypt's parliament approved a series of constitutional changes that openly mark the country's descent into institutionalized authoritarianism. The proposed amendments would extend presidential terms from four to six years and allow the current president to run for elections twice more after his current term finishes in 2022.
- With overpopulation and lack of opportunity and the political situation, much Egyptian youth are looking to migrate. The number of international migrants in Egypt increased between 2010 to 2015, from 295,000 to 491,000 (IOM 2018). In 2018 Unemployment of youth is 12% of total labor forces age 15-24 according to the world bank.
- There are multiple reports of violations of human right laws and freedom of speech.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention Would

- Support keeping international peace and security within the African union and worldwide by cooperation between Egypt and the United Nations.
- Increase transparency and engaging in trust-building and cooperation with civil society.
- Promote Establishing zone free of mass destruction in the middle east
- Promote sustainable development in Egypt.
- Support reaching goals and priorities set by agenda 2063 of African Union
- Present Egypt as a peacekeeper and increasing return from African youth.
- Develop agriculture and medical sector by receiving support from other members of treaties and international organizations.

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## **1.5. ERITREA**

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **State of Eritrea.**



Names of Senior Officials:

- President: **Isaias Afwerk**
- Foreign Minister: **Osman Saleh Mohammed**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **His Excellency Mr. Adem Osman Idris**

About the Country:

- Working languages: **Tigrinya, Tigre and Arabic** (no official languages)
- Population: **3,213,972** (2011)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **32** (2011)
- GDP (current US \$): **2.6 billion** (2011)
- GDP annual growth (%): **8.7** (2011)
- Capital city: **Asmara**

Government:

- Independence: **1991** (from Italy)
- Type: **Unitary one-party presidential republic** (constitution adopted in 1997)



**Process of Ratification:**

- According to article 42 (6) of the Eritrean Constitution, the President negotiates and signs international agreements (or delegates such powers).
- Moreover, as per article 32 (4), the National Assembly is charged with ratifying international agreements by law.

**Eritrea and the BWC:**

- A representative from Eritrea was invited to participate in the universalization workshop that took place in Addis Ababa on December 2018, in cooperation with the African Union.

**Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:**

Treaty or Convention	Signature	Ratification	Accession
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention			2001
Chemical Weapons Convention			2000
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	2003	2003	
Pelindaba Treaty	1996		
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons			1995

### Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- African Union
- Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- IFRC: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- League of Arab States, (Arab League)
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

### National Priorities and Development:

- Because of the political situation, many Eritreans have been fleeing to Europe.
- The majority of refugees in Libya are victims of human trafficking.
- Human Rights: In 2018, the UN Human Rights Council reported that human rights were being violated (e.g., freedom of speech, detention without trial, torture). The trend appears to be negative.
- Health Sector: While “commendable progress” has been achieved according to the WHO, the need to prevent, control/manage communicable and non-communicable diseases; access to progressive technological advancement in health.
- Agriculture: The vast majority of the population rely on agriculture, which is the primary source of livelihood, according to WHO.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention World:

- Accessing the Convention would boost the improvement of the health sector.
- Increasing transparency and engaging in trust-building and cooperation with civil society.
- Accessing the Convention would build trust among international actors and would make Eritrea more trustworthy.
- There is a significant focus on increasing food and water security.

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## 1.6. HAITI

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Status: **Signatory**

Full Name: **Republic of Haiti**



Names of Senior Officials:

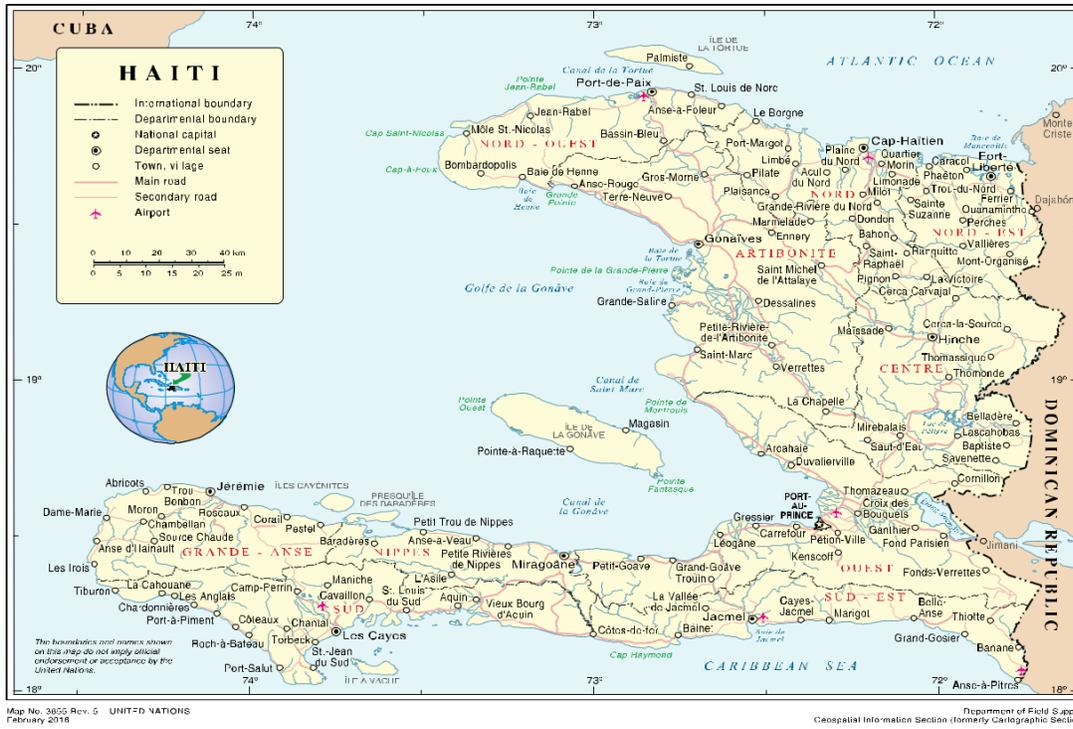
- President: **Jovenel Moise**
- Prime Minister: **Jean-Michel Lapin** (since 21/03/2019 confirmed in 09/04/19)
- Foreign Minister: **Bocchit Edmond**
- Defence Minister: **Enold Joseph**
- Permeant Mission in Geneva: **Pierre André Dunbar**

About the Country:

- Official language: **French and Haitian Creole**
- Population: **11,123,176** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **404** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **9.7 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **1,5** (2018)
- Capital city: **Port-au-Prince**

Government:

- Independence: **1804** (from France)
- Type: **Republic with an elected government** (constitution adopted in 1987)



## Process of Ratification:

According to the Haiti constitution:

- Article 139: He (the President of the Republic) negotiates and signs all international treaties, conventions, and agreements and submits them to the National Assembly for ratification.
- Article 276: The National Assembly may not ratify any International Treaty, Convention or Agreement containing clauses contrary to this Constitution.
  - o Parliamentarians have an essential role in the ratification and implementation of international instruments. As representatives of national sovereignty, parliamentarians enjoy a particular legitimacy to draft, vote, and ensure the implementation of laws. They approve the ratification and implementation of international conventions, which dictate the rights and obligations of their country.
- Article 276.1: The ratification of Treaties, Conventions, and International Agreements are given in the form of a Decree.

## Haiti and the BWC:

- From March 21-23, 2018, a workshop to promote the universalization of the Convention was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, UNODA and the ISU, under the European Union Council Decision 2016/51.
- During these meetings, strong support was expressed for ratification of the Convention. Ratification of the Convention needs to be approved by the National Assembly of Haiti.

- Haiti's contribution as a State Party to the BWC would be a mere \$50
- H.E. Mr. Antonio Rodrigue, the ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Haiti, announced that Haiti does not have any weapons of mass destruction and has no intention of acquiring such weapons and that preventing the illegal use of biological weapons is a priority for Haiti.
- Senator Valentin supported that Haiti shall ratify the convention and implement it to criminalize the behaviors prohibited under the BWC; to protect peace and security in the region, as well as the human rights of our constituents and the integrity of our territory.
- The vice-president of the House emphasized that the critical piece is that the draft decree of ratification is already in parliament. He pledged to do his best to sensitize colleagues and foster political will so that BWC ratification becomes a priority agenda item.

Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	1997	2006
Arms Trade Treaty	2014	
Biological Weapons Convention	1972	
Chemical Weapons Convention	1993	2006
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	1996	2005
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2009	
Inter-American Convention on Firearms	1997	2007
Inter-American Convention on Transparency	1999	
Outer Space Treaty	1967	
Partial Test Ban Treaty	1963	
Treaty of Tlatelolco	1967	1969
Resolution 267 to the Treaty of Tlatelolco	1991	
Resolution 268, 290 to the Treaty of Tlatelolco	1992	
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	1968	1970

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Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- Alliance of Small Island States
- Caribbean Community

- Community of Democracies
- Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Organization of American States
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Union Latina

### National Priorities and Development:

- The 5 priority areas of intervention will be poverty reduction, social services, resilience, gender equality and protection, and governance
- UN will also support Haiti's efforts to become less and less dependent on humanitarian aid and to increase the institutions and population's resilience to face and recover from external shocks, such as natural disasters and other potential humanitarian situations.
- The health situation of the Haitian population is chronically precarious. It is improving only very slowly given the weaknesses of the national health system and the high physical and socio-economic vulnerability.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention World:

- Haiti remains the only country in the Americas, not to ratify the BWC.
- BWC is necessary for national, as well as international, security, and peace.
- Many benefits of becoming a member of the BWC, including strengthening health systems, prevention of disease outbreak, and assistance of other States Parties to Haiti on a wide range of related topics.
- Current political context: Due to the recurrent social crises in Haiti, the country has seen several successive governments in a concise period. Jean-Henry Céant Prime Minister since August 6, 2018, weakened like his predecessor by a succession of violence and demonstrations, was overthrown when a motion of censure was voted on by 103 deputies (93 for the dismissal of the Prime Minister and his government, 13 against and 6 abstentions). Jean-Michel Lapin succeeded him and announced his government on May 9, 2019. Due to their recent
- Assumption of office, it is too early to know the commitments and positions adopted on the BWC by current political leaders

## 1.7. ISRAEL

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Status: **Non-Signatory States**

Full Name: **Israel**



Names of Senior Officials:

- President: **Reuven Rivlin**
- Prime Minister: **Benjamin Netanyahu**
- Foreign Minister: **Yisrael Katz**
- Defence Minister: **Benjamin Netanyahu**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **Her Excellency Ms. Aviva Raz Shechter**

About the Country:

- Official language: **Hebrew**
- Population **8,883,800** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **411** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **369.7 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **3.3** (2018)
- Capital city: **Jerusalem** (limited recognition)

Government:

- Independence: **1948** (creation of independent Arab and Jewish states)
- Type: **Parliamentary democracy** (no constitution)



## Process of Ratification:

- Israel is the democratic state of the Jewish people.
- It is a parliamentary democracy consisting of legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Its institutions are the presidency, the Knesset (parliament), the government (cabinet of ministers) and the judiciary.
- Israel has no written constitution. While the State of Israel does not have a constitution, it does have a series of “Basic Laws,” which function in a similar matter to constitutional laws.
- The executive branch of Israel is headed by a prime minister who is the coalition leader of the Knesset.
- The president of Israel is a largely ceremonial role. As head of state, the president participates in ceremonies and serves as Israel’s representative both in Israel and abroad. The president is elected by the Knesset for a single term of seven years.
- In Israel, the government has the authority to sign international treaties and ratify them. According to the Basic Law: the President of the State, the President, signs "treaties with foreign countries, which were approved by the Knesset ("the gathering" or "assembly," the unicameral national legislature of Israel).
- The process of ratifying treaties in Israel is not laid down by means of specific legislation but on the basis custom. In general, there is no obligation to receive the consent of the

Knesset for the signing of treaties, but over the years a custom has evolved under which the Government brings to the Knesset for its approval, treaties of particular importance before they are ratified and go into force. The Government Rules of Procedure stipulate that it is possible to bring to the Government for its ratification an international treaty only after it has been deposited with the Knesset secretariat for at least two weeks, in the course of a session.

### Israel and the BWC:

- Israel has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, nor the Convention Banning Biological Weapons, and has signed but not ratified the Convention Banning Chemical Weapons.
- According to various international reports, also quoted by the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz, biological and chemical weapons are developed at the Institute for Biological Research, located in Ness-Ziona, near Tel Aviv. Officially, 160 scientists and 170 technicians are part of the staff, who for five decades has performed research in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, pharmacology, physics, and other scientific disciplines. The Institute, along with the Dimona nuclear center, is "one of the most secretive institutions in Israel" under the direct jurisdiction of the Prime Minister. The greatest secrecy surrounds research on biological weapons, bacteria, and viruses that spread among the enemy and can trigger epidemics. Among them, the bacteria of the bubonic plague (the "Black Death" of the Middle Ages) and the Ebola virus, contagious and lethal, for which no therapy is available.
- There is strong evidence of research to develop biological weapons that can destroy the human immune system. Officially the Israeli Institute researches vaccines against bacteria and viruses, such as anthrax funded by the Pentagon, but they can develop new pathogens for war use.
- Israel agrees with and supports the primary objectives of the BTWC, and it is a party to the 1925 Geneva protocol for the prohibition of the use of asphyxiating, poisonous, or other gases and bacteriological methods of warfare (since 1969) and accepts the international norm regarding the prohibition of BW use.
- Israel supports the inclusion of the issue in a gradual regional process that would begin in confidence-building measures, good neighborliness, and regional security frameworks, and only after those have been established should the more complex topic of a WMD-free zone (WMDFFZ) be raised. As part of its policy to support the fundamental objectives and underlying norms of the BTWC, i.e., to curb the proliferation of BW, its components and delivery systems, Israel has joined and supports various international initiatives and strategies in this area. First and foremost, Israel participates as an observer in the work of the BTWC and by this keeps an open channel of dialogue with member states and is apprised of the discussions and new initiatives raised in this forum.
- Last year, Israel participated in a regional seminar organized by the EU in Rome on the issue of BTWC universality, which can be regarded as a strengthening of relations.

- Israel attaches great importance to its export control system and regards it as a significant element in the effort to curb the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems, and as a critical instrument for preventing conventional weapons and dual-use items and technologies from falling into the wrong hands.
- Officials from Israel have repeatedly reported that Israel's failure to join the BWC to date is due to difficult regional security circumstances and that no accession activity is likely to take place in the near future. Consequently, reports from the Chairmen of the 2007 and 2008 BWC meetings have consistently listed Israel under the category of "No action expected in the near future."
- Israel has demonstrated a long-term interest in BWC developments, having attended official BWC meetings, as well as the EU Joint Action preparatory meetings in Brussels, Geneva, and New York as well as participating in the EU Joint Action regional seminar for the Middle East that took place in Rome, Italy on April 2008. A local representative of the Israel Mission in Geneva is also a regular participant in less formal BWC-related events, including NGO BWC lunchtime seminars and meetings outside of the BWC timetable.

#### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>
1925 Geneva Protocol			1969
Arms Trade Treaty	2014		
Chemical Weapons Convention	1993		
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	1996		
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons			1995
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism	2006		
Outer Space Treaty	1967	1977	
<u>Partial Test Ban Treaty</u>	1963	1964	

- According to the revised report on universalization activities after the “Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction” it is declared that no action expected in the near future.
- According to the revised report on universalization activities, no further information has been reported during 2018. The Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties met with Israeli officials in Geneva on 16 November to encourage accession to the Convention by Israel.
- Other Israeli initiatives and activities include:
  - o Israel has accepted the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

- Israel supported UNSC resolution 1540 of 2004, which aims to curb and prevent the proliferation of WMD to the wrong hands and reduce non-conventional terrorism, including bioterror, mainly by national legislation and additional instruments.
- Knesset (Israeli Parliament) has enacted a new law dealing with oversight of research and use of dangerous biological agents. The principals of this law are coherent with the recommendations of the steering committee mentioned above.
- The Israeli Academy of Science has joined and signed a bio-security statement of the international organization of academies in the world (IAP) to prevent abuse of biological research.
- The Israeli Academy of Science has participated in an international bio-security working group that deals with the issue of control of dual-use technologies.
- Although Israel is not a party to the BWC, its clear policy is to join and participate in international efforts to curb the proliferation of WMD.

### Regional Organizations:

- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Pacific Alliance
- Paris Club
- Conference on Disarmament

### National Priorities and Development:

- Israel encourages economic growth, develops human capital, and promotes international trade and commerce.
- The country reconsiders interrelationships between demography, agriculture, water policy, and the environment.
- Israel focuses on enhancing and realizing the potential of Israel's human capital, enforcing compliance with legislation, and initiating new legislation related to consumerism, international commerce, trade restrictions, safety.
- Accession to the Treaty is not likely in the near future and is dependent upon significant political changes within the Middle East region, making the political climate more conducive to accession.
- Pressure should be regularly applied to Israel by States parties to the Convention and strategies involving the promotion and implementation of regional confidence-building

measures in support of the goals of the BTWC may be the only realistic way to promote the convention in the region.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention Would

- Promoting border security cooperation and collective security
- Enhancing the national care system and agriculture safety
- Reinforcing the policies and approaches for biosafety and bio-security
- Cooperation in epidemiological research programs and policies for treatment and response to epidemics
- Control of R&D, manufacture, and stockpiling of vaccines and drugs
- Data and information exchange and cooperation in legislation, regulation, and export control systems
- Fulfilling the commitment to multilateral cooperation

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## **1.8. KIRIBATI**

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **Republic of Kiribati**



Names of Seniors Officials:

- President: **His Excellency Taneti Maamau**
- Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration: **His Excellency Taneti Maamau**
- House Speaker: **Tebuai Uaai**
- Minister for Health and Medical Services: **Tauanei Marea**
- Ambassador in New York: **Her Excellency Ms. Makurita Baaro**

About the Country:

- Official language: **Gilbertese and English**
- Population: **115,847** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **143**
- GDP (current US \$): **188.2 million** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **2.0** (2018)
- Capital city: **Tarawa**

Government:

- Independence: **1979** (from the United Kingdom)
- Type: **Parliamentary Representative Democratic Republic** (constitution adopted in 1979)



### Process of Ratification:

The following process of accession and ratification applies to Kiribati as set out in Article 66 to 68 of their Constitution, which outlines legislation and procedure.

#### *Accession:*

1. Engage with, and present proposals to, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Health and Medical Services;
2. Obtain approval from President Maamau to accede to the Convention;
3. Deposit instrument of accession with depository state;

#### *Ratification:*

4. Drafting of Bill;
5. Obtain approval from President on the Bill and ensure it is Constitutional;
6. Present Bill to Parliament;
7. Obtain majority vote in Parliament;
8. Deposit instrument of ratification with depository state.

## Kiribati and the BWC:

The following statements have been made by the President(s) of Kiribati at the United Nations General Assembly and highlight the position that the country takes in regard to the United Nations, the protection of their nation and the use of weapons of mass destruction:

- The 71st session, 14th Plenary meeting, September 22, 2016, page 16: "We note with grave concern... the often unstated but invisible silent killer, the non-communicable diseases, the health of our oceans and other looming challenges and uncertainties, some with incremental but genuine existential threats such as climate change. These continue to undermine our efforts as a global family to achieve sustainable development".
- 73rd Session, 9th Plenary Meeting, September 16, 2018, page 17: "Our ultimate aim is to ensure that everyone can lead a happy, prosperous and secure future...The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has also assured us that the radiation-related illnesses suffered by our people during and after the 1960s nuclear testing on Christmas Island and other parts of the world will not recur in the future".
- 72nd Session, 15th plenary meeting, September 22, 2017, page 3: "We must make sure we serve and deliver on our main objective as a global family to provide a peaceful and secure world without nuclear weapons and promote social progress, better living standards, human rights and dignity for all our citizens. We all want to live a happy life on a safe and sustainable planet."

It was further noted that concrete steps towards Kiribati's accession to the Convention were possible during the universalization workshop for the Pacific Region held in Fiji at the end of 2018.

## Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>	<b>Succession</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention			2000	
Arms Trade Treaty	2013			
Chemical Weapons Convention			2000	
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	2000	2000		
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism	2005	2008		
South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty	1985	1986		
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons				1975
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	2017			

### Regional Organizations:

- Coalition of Low-lying Atoll Nations on Climate Change (CANCC)
- African Caribbean and Pacific Group
- Pacific Island Forum
- South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
- Pacific Regional Environment Program
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Asian Development Bank
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Development Association

### National Priorities and Development:

- Climate change remains the single highest priority on Kiribati's agenda. During a meeting at the General Assembly, Kiribati outlined that climate change was “...*the single most pressing challenge for us in Kiribati*” which is indicative of their priorities being elsewhere at this stage. (United Nations General Assembly, 69th Session, 13th Plenary Meeting, September 2014, page 26.)
- The Kiribati Development Plan identifies the country's main priorities. Those relevant to the BWC be summarized as follows:
  - Education;
  - Improving access to health care;
  - Raising awareness of the building code and ensure compliance;
  - Strengthening institutional capacity for a climate change intervention.
  - Strengthening human rights; and
  - Budgeting for meeting its obligations/reporting under international instruments. (Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 21st Session, January 2016, page 22),

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention World

- International assistance in implementing requirements of other treaties and conventions
- Job growth/creation, this is important as Kiribati has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world

- Building the capacity of the nation to build stronger institutions to deal with crises, mainly health-related
- The ability of the Convention to assist with issues concerning climate change. For example, joining the Convention may help strengthen their existing health sector – which is a sector that will be put under pressure with the increasing pressure of climate change. The World Health Organization has already widely reported on the link between climate change and the rapid spread of infectious diseases. It will be beneficial to illustrate how a strengthened health sector and assistance from other Convention member states can assist them as "*Changes in infectious disease transmission patterns are a likely major consequence of climate change* (<https://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/summary/en/index5.html>).
- Important considerations when delivering key messages for Kiribati:
  - Geographical isolation: this is relevant concerning their perceived lack of threat from biological weapons, as well as their isolation from the UN and its instruments.
  - UN General Assembly, 73rd Session, 9th Plenary Meeting, September 16, 2018, NY, page 17: Adopting the ‘Pacific Way’ as referenced at the GA, can aid in determining an appropriate, convincing, and culturally-sensitive approach to take.
  - Financial: while the cost of joining the Convention may be minimal, the related expenses associated with reporting requirements, travel to Geneva/New York do pose an issue for small island states.
  - The capacity of government: Kiribati has a relatively small government, meaning that they have a limited number of Ministers who are available for overseas travel or other requirements associated with becoming part of many treaties/conventions.

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## 1.9. MICRONESIA

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **Federated States of Micronesia**



Names of Senior Officials:

- President: **H.E. Mr. David W. Panuelo**
- Vice-President: **Hon. Mr. Yosiwo P. George**
- Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs: **The Honorable Lorin Robert**
- Permanent Mission in New York: **H.E. Ms. Jane Jimmy Chigiyal**

About the Country:

- Official language: **English**
- Population: **112,640** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **161** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **344.5 million** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **1.4** (2018)
- Capital city: **Palikir**

Government:

- Independence: **1986** (after signing the Compact of Free Association with the United States)
- Type: **Federal Representative Democratic Republic** (constitution adopted in 1979)



### Process of Ratification:

- The President is the Head of State and Head of Government.
- The President is assisted by the Vice-President.
- Congress consists of 14 non-partisan members, and with the president, has the legislative power.
- According to Section 4 of the constitution, a treaty is ratified by a vote of 2/3 of the members of Congress, except that a treaty delegating major powers of the government of the Federated States of Micronesia to another government shall also require majority approval by the legislatures of 2/3 of the states.

### Federated States of Micronesia and the BWC:

There have been no mentions of biological weapons or the BWC by any of the representatives of FSM in recent years, either at a regional meeting or at the United Nations. Some encouraging remarks include;

- President, Mr. Peter Christian, 27/09/2018, 73<sup>rd</sup> Session: The wish for peace is global; it should have no boundaries.
- President, Mr. Peter Christian, 27/09/2018, 73<sup>rd</sup> Session: A lasting peace on the [Korean] peninsula translates into a more secure and stable Pacific region.
- President, Mr. Peter Christian, 27/09/2018, 73<sup>rd</sup> Session: The United Nations needs to be relevant and able and willing to deal with emerging threats.

### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Acceded</b>
Chemical Weapons Convention	1993	1999	
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	1996	1997	
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction	1993	1999	
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons			1995

### Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP)
- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRM)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC)

### National Priorities and Development:

- According to a report in 2004 (<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/29736/hardship-micronesia.pdf>), the following were identified as key areas of priorities for the development of the country;
  - o Improved Access to income-generating opportunities
  - o Improved Access to basic services (i.e., Transportation, education, health, power, water)
  - o Improved Access to information (i.e., Family planning)
  - o Skills training and recreation centers
  - o Measures to stop alcohol and drug abuse
  - o Child support law enforcement
- These areas of improvement were summarized into the following needs;
  - o Access to safe water
  - o Home economics and household improvement
  - o Income generation

- Food security
- Planning and management
- While this report was dated more than 10 years ago, the same priorities still exist today. Furthermore, the national government has placed emphasis on things such as;
  - Creating a gender policy
  - Policies on Rights of a Child
  - National security (including marine, air and land)
  - Health issues and the health sector human resource capacity development

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention World

- Member of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Gained independence after 1975 and became a member of the United Nations only in 1991.
- Is a strong and firm believer in peace.
- Neighboring countries have all signed the BWC: neighboring islands, which are U.S territories, are all under the convention.
- Further information about the BWC and the threat of biological weapons are key to reinforcing the importance of signing and ratifying the convention.

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## 1.10. NAMIBIA

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **Republic of Namibia**



Names of Senior Officials:

- President: **Hage Geigob**
- Prime Minister: **Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila**
- Foreign Minister: **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**
- Defence Minister: **Penda Ya Ndakolo**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **His Excellency Penda Andreas Naanda**

About the Country:

- Official language: **English**
- Population: **2,448,255** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **3** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **14.5 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **-0,1** (2018)
- Capital city: **Windhoek**

Government:

- Independence: **1990** (from apartheid South Africa)
- Type: **Republic** (constitution adopted in 1990)



### Process of Ratification:

- According to article 32 (3e), the President shall "negotiate and sign international agreements," but s/he may also "delegate such power."
- Once the President has negotiated and signed the agreement, according to article 63 §2 e), the National Assembly shall "agree to the ratification of or accession to international agreements."

### Namibia and the BWC:

- H. E. Mr. Neville Gertze claimed during the Security Council Open Debate on the "Global Effort to Prevent the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass-Destruction by Non-State Actors" that Namibia works "to assure the rights of all Member States to peaceful use of nuclear energy for development and advancement of technology" and that "the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical or biological as well as their means of delivery and related technologies". Namibia also reaffirmed its commitment to participate in disarmament to attain the goal of "a world free of weapons of mass destruction."
- Namibia took part in the "Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)", organized by PGA in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 17 to 18 September. At the workshop, a

statement on behalf of Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of Namibia was delivered, in which she noted the importance of the Convention, stated Namibia's intention to join the Convention and highlighted that "preparations are underway to join the family of friends who has already signed and ratified this Convention." On 19 October in New York, the Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties met with Ms. Linda Anne Scott, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, and Mr. Pule Diamonds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Namibia, to encourage Namibia to accede to the Convention. A representative from Namibia will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December in cooperation with the African Union.

### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	1997	1998	
Arms Trade Treaty	2014		
Chemical Weapons Convention	1993	1995	
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	1996	2001	
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2008	2018	
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism			2016
Pelindaba Treaty	1996	2012	
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons			1992
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	2017		

### Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- African Union
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Southern African Development Community

### National Priorities and Development:

- Health Sector: address communicable and non-communicable diseases, although substantial improvements were made. The especial concern is connected to HIV/AIDS, TB, and M-TB. "The emergence of multidrug-resistant TB and the growing problem of

extensively drug-resistant TB pose new challenges to improve the capacity for the management of identified cases, infection control in health facilities and strengthened surveillance and reporting." Moreover, "private sectors are licensed to provide health services, and they complement the services of the public sector.

- Environmental health: there are gaps in response capacity during the emergencies. More attention should be paid to access to the drinking water and sanitation facilities.
- The expansion of the economic ties with regional countries/relations with Western trading partners as Germany. Relations with China and India will remain strong, driven by their interest in Namibia's vast uranium resources, with the two countries providing food aid, investment, and loans.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention World

- Accessing the Convention would boost the improvement of the health sector (trust of the donors, who invest in the healthcare system of Namibia).
- Increasing transparency and engaging in trust-building and cooperation with civil society (State party SWAPO lost some of the public support, and this will help to get it back).
- Accessing the Convention would build trust among international actors and would make Namibia more trustworthy.
- Increasing food and water security.

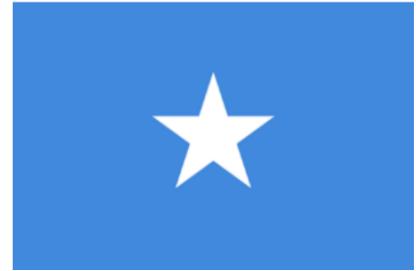
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## 1.11. SOMALIA

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Status: **Signatory**

Full Name: **Federal Republic of Somalia**



Names of Senior Officials:

- President: **Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed**
- Prime Minister: **Hassan Ali Khayre**
- Foreign Minister: **Ahmed Isse Awad**
- Defence Minister: **Abdirashid Abdullahi Mohamed**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **Her Excellency Ms. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud**

About the Country:

- Official language: **Somali and Arabic**
- Population: **15,008,154** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **24**
- GDP (current US \$): **7.5 billion** (2018)
- GDP Annual Growth (%): **2.9** (2018)
- Capital City: **Mogadishu**

Government:

- Independence: **1960** (from Italy and the United Kingdom)
- Type: **Federal parliamentary republic** (constitution adopted in 2012)



### Process of Ratification:

- According to Article 90 of the Constitution of Somalia, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia is responsible for signing international treaties proposed by the Council of Ministers and approved by the House of the People of the Federal Parliament.

### Somalia and the BWC:

- Signed the convention in 1972 but did not ratify.
- General Assembly Seventy-third session: Ahmed Awad Isse, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Somalia. "we have made huge strides in security sector reform and our political and economic transformation. We are, however, mindful of the enormous challenges that we face in fixing Somalia, and especially in overcoming the threats of terrorism."
- Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction. 3 December 2018 – "Somalia took part in the "Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)", organized by PGA in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania, from 17 to 18 September. On 26 November, a Somalian and Jordanian Parliamentary Workshop will take place in the House of Representatives of Jordan. The workshop aims to promote bio-risk management best practices and universality and implementation of the Convention and Security Council

resolution 1540 (2004). Two representatives from Somalia participated in the universalization workshop that took place in Djibouti City from 3 to 4 October in cooperation with IGAD. A representative from Somalia will be invited to participate in the universalization workshop planned to take place in Addis Ababa in December.”

**Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:**

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention			2012
Biological Weapons Convention	1972		
Chemical Weapons Convention			2013
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2008	2015	
Outer Space Treaty	1967		
Partial Test Ban Treaty	1963		
Pelindaba Treaty	2006		
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapon	1968	1970	

**Regional Organizations:**

- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- African Union
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Development Association
- League of Arab States (Arab League)

**National Priorities and Development:**

- According to the UN environment program, Somalia is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world and as such presents unique challenges in terms of natural resource management. As a result of more than 25 years of civil unrest, Somalia’s governance structures have fallen apart, and militias control different parts of the country
- The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) reported 1,228 civilian casualties between January and September 2017, about half by Al-Shabab. In February, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmajo" was selected as the country's president following a protracted and controversial electoral process. Political infighting, including within federal member states, delayed much needed justice and security sector reforms and on occasion led to violence affecting civilians.

- In February 2019, the African Union (AU) called for the gradual transfer of security responsibilities from the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to agencies of the federal government of Somalia. While there are positive aspects to this move, similar attempts have been made in the past with limited success.
- Healthcare and Human rights: with regard to the political situation and human rights violations, Somalia massively struggles with humanitarian emergencies as well as a lack of accountability.
- Somalia is preparing for the general elections in 2020, the nation's first one-person-one-vote elections since the country experienced a military coup in 1969.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention would

- Increase transparency and engagement in trust-building and cooperation with civil society.
- Support the goals and priorities set by agenda 2063 of the African Union.
- Sustainable and inclusive poverty reduction and economic growth can be achieved only by providing high-security standards.
- In order to prevent the escalation of conflict and to control the BW circulation, the signature of international treaties is highly recommended
- Strengthen local governance structures.
- Increase employment generation in support of improved access to affordable housing and basic services.

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## 1.12. SOUTH SUDAN

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **Republic of South Sudan**



Names of Senior Officials:

- President: **Salva Kiir Mayardit;**
- Vice President: **James Wani Igga;**
- Foreign Minister: **Nhial Deng Nhial;**
- Defense Minister: **Kuol Manyang Juuk;**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **His Excellency Mr. Akech Chol Ahou Ayok**

About the Country:

- Official language: **English and Arabic**
- Population: **10,975,920** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **22** (2018)
- GDP (current US\$): **3.1 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **-3,8** (2018)
- Capital city: **Juba**

Government:

- Independence: **2011** (from Sudan)
- Type: **Republic** (constitution was ratified in 2011)



**Process of Ratification:**

- Article 57 of the Constitution: The National Legislative Assembly exercises the right to ratify international treaties, conventions, and agreements.

**South Sudan and the BWC:**

- On June 7, 2019, the Council of Ministers of the Government of South Sudan made a statement on its accession to the Biological Weapons Convention, as stated on Parliamentarians for Global Action website.

**Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:**

Treaty or Convention	Signature	Ratification	Succession
Anti- Personnel Mine Ban Convention			2011

**Regional Organizations:**

- African Union
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

- Arab League
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development

#### National Priorities and Development:

- Food security and livelihood
- Protection of civilians and the promotion of human rights
- Peace and nation-building

#### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention Would

- Increase transparency and engage in trust-building and cooperation with civil society.
- Build trust among other countries and make South Sudan more trustworthy.

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## 1.13. SYRIA

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Status: **Signatory**

Full Name: **Syrian Arab Republic**



Names of Senior Officials:

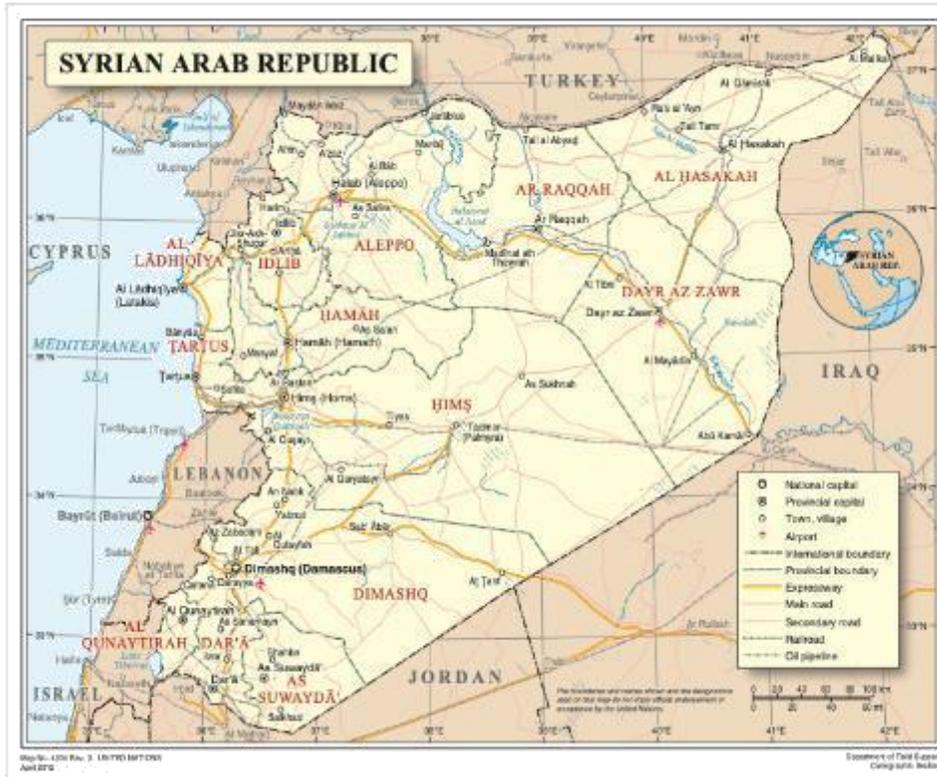
- President: **Bashar al-Assad**
- Prime Minister: **Imad Khamis**
- Foreign Minister: **Walid Mohi Edine al Muallem**
- Defence Minister: **General Ali Abdullah Ayyoub**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **His Excellency Mr. Hussam Edin Aala**

About the Country:

- Official language: **Arabic**
- Population: **16,906,280** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **92** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **73.67 billion** (2016)
- GDP annual growth (%): **-3.4** (2016)
- Capital city: **Damascus**

Government:

- Independence: **1946** (from France)
- Type: **Republic** (Constitution adopted in 2012, replacing the previous one of 1973)



### Process of Ratification:

- According to Article 75 of the constitution, the approval of international treaties and conventions is undertaken by the People’s Assembly.
- Additionally, as stated in Article 107 of the constitution, “the President of the Republic concludes international treaties and revokes them in accordance with provisions of the Constitution and rules of international law.

### Syria and the BWC:

- Due to the ongoing civil war since 2011, there has been an emphasis on the use of weapons. During the United Nations General Assembly 73<sup>rd</sup> Session on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018, there was a discussion by the committee on the conflict in Syria and condemnation against the use of chemical weapons. Additionally, they demanded the absolute rejection of biological weapons.
- Though there is a widespread discussion around the use of chemical weapons in the region, there has been no development since 2018 about biological weapons.

### Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>
1925 Geneva Protocol			1968
Biological Weapons Convention	1972		
Chemical Weapons Convention			2013
Convention on Environmental Modification Techniques	1977		
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism	2005		
Other Space Treaty			1968
Partial Test Ban Treaty	1963	1964	
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	1968	1969	

### Regional Organizations:

- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Arab Monetary Fund
- International Chamber of Commerce
- International Monetary Fund
- Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation

### National Priorities and Development:

- Due to the civil war, which started in 2011, which is still ongoing, the hostilities unleashed on the civilian population have been constant. According to a report released in 2018 by the United Nations Human Rights Council, the lawlessness and violence have been persistent.
- The war has led to instability and an unprecedented amount of internal displacement. A report by the United Nations Human Rights Council released in September 2018; there has been a rise in indiscriminate attacks and widespread human rights violations.
- With regard to the health sector, various hospitals have been bombed or attacked deliberately. According to the World Health Organization, the organization has strongly condemned attacks on hospitals and health workers.

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention Would

- Enhance the healthcare sector which is primarily affected by the ongoing civil war

- Promote the idea of collective security
- The war has led to the isolation of the country. Hence, accessing the convention lead to more representation of the country and boost relations within the region and on a global scale.

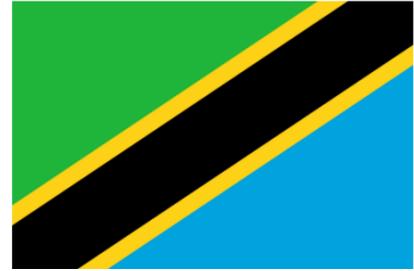
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## 1.14. TANZANIA

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Status: **Signatory**

Full Name: **United Republic of Tanzania**



Names of Senior Officials:

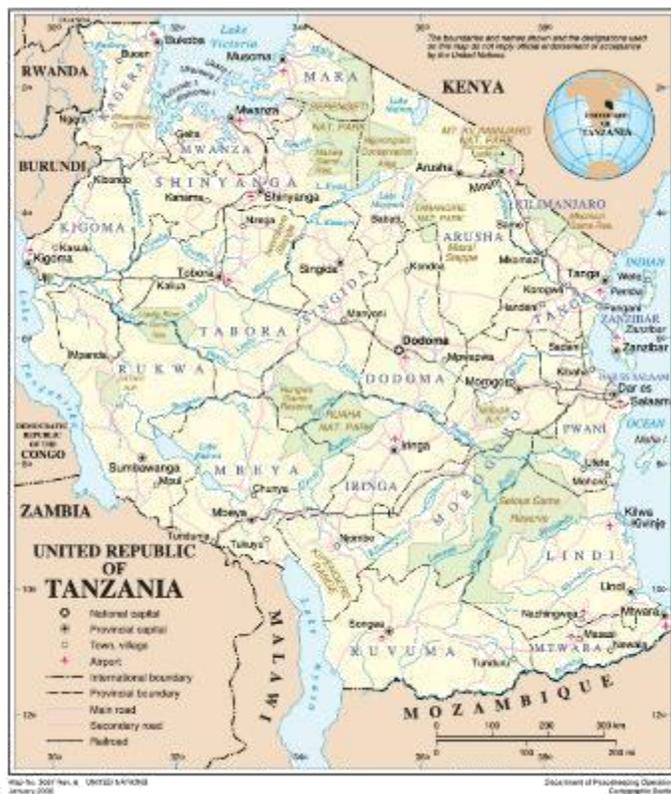
- President: **Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli**
- Prime Minister: **Kassim Majaliwa**
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: **Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi**
- Minister of Defence and National Service: **Hussein Mwiny**
- Permanent Mission in Geneva: **M. Robert Kainunula Vedasto Kahendaguza**

About the Country:

- Official language: **Swahili, English (de facto)**
- Population: **56,318 350** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **64** (2018)
- GDP (current US \$): **57.4 billion** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **5.2** (2018)
- Capital city: **Dodoma** (legislative, national capital), **Dar es Salaam** (administrative, de facto capital)

Government:

- Independence: **1961** (from the United Kingdom): Tanganyika - 1961 (from UK-administered UN trusteeship), Zanzibar -1963 (from the UK). Union formed in 1964.
- Type: **Presidential republic** (constitution ratified in 1977)



### Process of Ratification:

- The process by which an international legal rule may become part of the law in Tanzania involves the following institutions and procedures:
  1. Initiative by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
  2. Consultation with the Ministry of Finance on possible financial implications
  3. Deliberation by the inter-ministerial Technical Committee
  4. Approval by Cabinet
  5. Preparation of a bill by the Chief Parliamentary Draftsmen
  6. National Assembly to pass the bill
  7. Presidential Assent
  8. Publication in the Government Gazette

## Tanzania and the BWC:

- In 1972, 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly: Delegate stated that disarmament treaties “are half-hearted and only peripheral. Instead of going to the root of the problem, they only nibble at its edge” and that “the importance of those treaties is often exaggerated.”
- In 2005, 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly: Delegate argued that the debate around disarmament and non-proliferation is of significant relevance. Tanzania stated to be particularly keen to see a global convention concluded to regulate the marking and tracing of all small arms and light weapons and on the illicit brokering of arms since it fuels violent conflicts and instability in the regions in Africa.
- May 2018: Chairman and the Chief of the Implementation Support Unit met with the Permanent Representative of Tanzania in Geneva, in order to discuss universalization issues, where Tanzania confirmed that its ratification of the BWC process is well advanced. Hussein Mwinzi, Tanzania’s Minister for Defense and National Service said in the National Assembly it was high time Tanzania ratified the convention since the challenges posed by different threats like terrorism have stressed such need.
- September 2018: Representatives from Tanzania took part in the “Regional Africa Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Universality and Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”, organized by PGA in Dar-es-Salaam.
- November 14, 2018, the Tanzanian Parliament approved ratification of the Convention.

## Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>
1925 Geneva Protocol			1963
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	1997	2000	
Arms Trade Treaty	2013		
Biological Weapons Convention	1972		
Chemical Weapons Convention	1994	1998	
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	2004	2004	
Convention on Cluster Munitions	2008		
Partial Test Ban Treaty	1963	1964	
Pelindaba Treaty	1996	1998	
Sea-bed Treaty	1971		
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons			1991

### Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- African Development Bank
- African Union
- Commonwealth of Nations (British)
- Community of Democracies
- East African Community
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Southern African Development Community

### National Priorities and Development:

- Economy: Boost economic performance and fight corruption. Domestic stability has not translated into economic prosperity for Tanzanians. Many of its people live below the World Bank poverty line, although the country has had some success in wooing donors and investors.
- Health: Lower the under-five mortality rate to about 45 deaths per 1000 live births, maternal mortality to below 250 deaths, and the prevalence of HIV to 3%. Raise life expectancy at birth to 66 years. Reach 85% access to clean and safe water in the rural areas and 90% in the urban areas.
- Biodiversity and nature: Tackle poaching in order to prevent elephant killing and fight the ivory black market. Since Tanzania is home of national parks full of wildlife such as the Serengeti.
- Human Rights: Under the last Universal Periodic Review (2016), Tanzania is expected to work on enlarging legislative protection for persons with albinism and progressing on the implementation of their Human Rights Plan. The death penalty is still a major concern for the Working Group.

### Key Messages: Access to the Convention World

- Tanzania will be granted opportunities for its experts to get training on how to deal with biological and toxin weapons.
- Ratifying the convention maximizes opportunities for Tanzanians when applying in international institutions that are working in accordance with the law on biological weapons.
- It also implies reassuring its commitment to this international agreement and showing consistency regarding its position in disarmament matters.

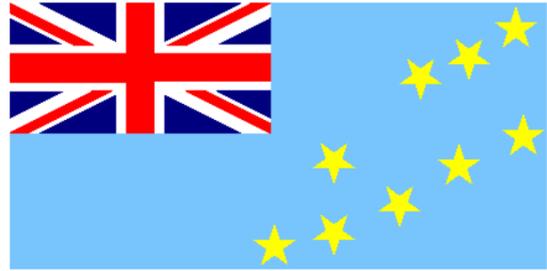
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## 1.15. TUVALU

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Status: **Non-Signatory**

Full Name: **Tuvalu** (formerly, Ellice Islands)



Names of Senior Officials:

- Monarch: **Queen Elizabeth II**
- Governor General: **Iakoba Italeli**
- Prime Minister: **Enele Sopoaga**
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: **Taukelina Finikaso**
- Permanent Mission in New York: **H.E Samuelu Laloni**

About the Country:

- Official language: **Tuvaluan, English**
- Population (people): **11,508** (2018)
- Population density (people / sq. km): **384**
- GDP (current US \$): **42.6 million** (2018)
- GDP annual growth (%): **2.5** (2018)
- Capital city: **Funafuti**

Government:

- Independence: **1978** (from the United Kingdom)
- Type: **Constitutional Monarchy with a Parliamentary Democracy** (constitution adopted 1978)



### Process of Ratification:

The following process of accession and ratification applies to Tuvalu, as outlined in Article 84 of their Constitution.:

#### Accession

1. Engage with and present proposals to Head of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Health;
2. Obtain approval from the Head of State to accede to the Convention;
3. Deposit instrument of accession with depository state;

#### Ratification

1. Drafting of Bill;
2. Obtain approval from the Head of State on the Bill and ensure it is Constitutional;
3. Present Bill to Parliament;
4. Obtain two-thirds majority vote in Parliament;
5. Deposit instrument of ratification with depository state.

### Tuvalu and the BWC:

- On October 19, 2018, in New York, the Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties met with H.E. Mr. Samuelu Laloni, Permanent Representative of Tuvalu to the United Nations to encourage accession by Tuvalu. A representative of Tuvalu was invited to attend the

universalization workshop for the Pacific Region that took place in Nadi, Fiji, from December 12-13, 2018.

Participation in Other Disarmament Treaties and Conventions:

<b>Treaty or Convention</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Accession</b>	<b>Succession</b>
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention			2011	
Arms Trade Treaty	2013	2015		
Chemical Weapons Convention			2004	
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty	2018			
South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty	1985	1986		
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)				1979
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons	2017			

Regional Organizations:

- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- Alliance of Small Island States
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- Coalition of Low-lying Atoll Nations on Climate Change
- Pacific Islands Forum
- Pacific Islands Development Forum
- Secretariat of the Pacific Communities

National Priorities and Development:

The following national priorities were highlighted in the Tuvalu Country report to the Human Rights Council in 2018:

- Climate Change
- Good Governance
- Health and Social Development
- Island Development
- Private Sector Development

- Education and Human Resources
- Natural Resources
- Infrastructure and support services
- Environment
- Migration and Urbanization
- Migration and urbanization Ocean and Seas

### Key Messages: Accessing the Convention World:

- Tuvalu became a member state of the UN in 2000.
- Tuvalu is part of other conventions, and it is believed that joining this one would be seen as a firm step in the regional leadership of the Pacific islands.
- Tuvalu is part of the Pacific Islands Forum (an inter-governmental organization). Disarmament is a primary focus; they have established the South Pacific Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty and are strong advocates for the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Therefore, they should be consistent and join the BWC.
- Parliamentary elections are being held on September 2019, and therefore it would prove beneficial in bringing this Convention to the new Parliament for discussion.
- Tuvalu has a strong concern for climate change, and it is their overarching priority. Therefore, linking the effects of climate change to health and the spread of disease can be a useful tool.

## **2.1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: STATUS OF COUNTRIES**

There are currently 15 countries who have not yet acceded to, or ratified, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (the ‘Convention’). The Non-Signatory States include:

1. Chad;
2. Comoros;
3. Djibouti;
4. Eritrea;
5. Israel;
6. Kiribati;
7. Micronesia (Federated States of);
8. Namibia;
9. South Sudan; and
10. Tuvalu.

The Signatory-States who have not yet deposited an instrument of ratification are:

1. Egypt;
2. Haiti;
3. Somalia;
4. Syrian Arab Republic; and
5. United Republic of Tanzania.

This section of the report will explore key messages and strategies applicable to all 15 countries, as well as regionally applicable key messages for: Africa, the Middle-East, the Pacific and the Caribbean. It will further outline the potential tools for implementation of the discussed strategies, as well as suggest potential partnerships and venues within which universalization of the Convention can be achieved. References will be made to the Sustainable Development Goals (‘SDGs’) to highlight how universalization of the Convention will ensure the security of our common future.

## **2.2. REGIONAL KEY MESSAGES**

### **2.2.1. Pacific region**

From seven countries in 2009, the Pacific Ocean region now has only three countries that have not yet joined the Biological Weapons Convention. Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu are not considered to be a threat to the principles of the Convention in any way, nor are they considered to be subject to possible threats from the use of biological weapons against them. They are small peaceful nations, with few economic resources, minimal biological and biotechnological activities and a combined total population of less than one million people. The universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the region and their traditional support for the rule of law suggest that there is no entrenched objection to accession to the Biological Weapons Convention.

### **2.2.1.1. *Climate Change***

Climate change is a major concern for the Pacific island regions, and many small island states are already feeling its effects. Climate change has a destabilizing impact and indiscriminately targets the environment, sustainability and health of a nation. Similarly, these are also the destabilizing factors associated with the use of biological weapons. The use of biological weapons could therefore exacerbate the effects of climate change.

There is an established link between climate change and the rapid spread of diseases and research has shown that “[c]hanges in infectious disease transmission patterns are a likely major consequence of climate change”. In order to minimize and curb the most severe impacts of climate change, joining the Convention will assist in strengthening the existing health sectors in the Pacific island regions, which are already under increasing pressure from climate change.

### **2.2.1.2. *Unemployment***

The Pacific Islands suffer from a high unemployment rate as a result of scarce economic resources, geographical isolation, minimal employment opportunities and poor access to basic services. Signing the Biological Weapons Convention may introduce jobs by, (1) encouraging innovation in science and technology for the betterment of the nation, (2) promoting the development of further initiatives to promote national security, and (3) creating support systems for health care initiatives.

### **2.2.1.3. *Geographical Isolation***

Adhering to the Convention would help these Pacific Island countries tackle their geographical isolation. This would be seen as a firm step on their adherence to the forum on disarmament and would lead to an increased role in the discussion of other global affairs. This means they would be given the voice and influence they cannot otherwise exercise, closing the gap with other actors. Since they would be able to express their regional position, this distance on the debate and statement of priorities would also be ameliorated.

## **2.2.2. The Middle East**

Two countries in the Middle East region, namely Syria and Egypt, have signed the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), but none of the states have ratified the convention, Israel has not signed or ratified. Due to geopolitical conflicts and instability in the region, it is not expected that these countries will ratify the treaty in the near future. The following sections emphasize the need for enhanced negotiation and cooperation between the three states to provide stability and increase sustainable development in the region.

### **2.2.2.1. *Regional Security***

Regional security is one of the key concerns for the Middle East region. Enhanced negotiation talks between the three states concerned would boost cooperation and further lead to more stability.

In addition, greater collaboration would increase sustainable development in the region and further lead to the liberation of the region from Weapons of Mass Destruction.

#### **2.2.2.2. *Biosafety and Biosecurity***

The three states share a common sea border, namely the Mediterranean Sea, and in order to save its biological value, it is necessary to unite forces for its preservation.

With regards to the challenge of climate change, the conservation of the environment is integral to the region and the world. Therefore, the reinforcement of policies and approaches for biosafety and biosecurity would further help to ensure the preservation of the environment. Furthermore, the preservation of life below water, which is a sustainable development goal, numbered fourteen is extremely crucial.

#### **2.2.2.3. *Knowledge and Information***

Various groups of users not only have the right to publicly access information, but this information is an important part of a democratic society and a public form of management, in which all available information should be widely utilized and distributed.

In the case of Middle Eastern countries, the collaboration in the field of information is lagging behind. It is necessary to create a common information base that will be aimed at tracking and controlling the biological weapons. This measure will stabilize the expectations and predictions, boost security and reinforce the cooperation in the region.

### **2.2.3. Africa**

The African region comprises a total of 9 countries that have not joined the Convention; of which 6 are non-signatory states, 2 are Signatory states (Somalia and Egypt) and 1 is on its way to depositing the instruments of ratification (Tanzania). Even though it is not inherently apparent as to the reasons why these countries did not ratify the Convention, an outline to the potential benefits of ratifying the Convention will be discussed below. This region comprises countries which overall share critical priorities, such as abolishing poverty or socio-economic inequality, stabilizing their political systems, improving their healthcare systems and becoming less dependent on agriculture.

#### **2.2.3.1. *Agriculture and Economy***

Since the region's economies are often dependent on agriculture, accessing the BWC would constitute a further step towards the protection of local farmers, thus preserving their national economies.

#### **2.2.3.2. *Health***

Accessing the BWC would enhance the African public health system by preventing intoxication and starvation. Along with protection of the local farmers, in terms of economic stability and preservation, ratifying the BWC will promote better healthcare systems through more sustainable

food security, water sanitation and disease control. Having witnessed the management of the Ebola outbreak, which brought to light the lack of humanitarian system and cooperation between countries to eradicate this disease, it is not far-fetched to affirm that ratifying the BWC would be especially beneficial.

### 2.2.3.3. *Security*

The Convention can guarantee peace as it encourages the countries to be neutral in the use of biological weapons. The ratification of BWC could particularly alleviate the tension on the Lake Chad Basin considering that Nigeria is already a member of the convention. Furthermore, it will boost the cooperation between the African countries in order to maintain peace and international security. In the case of Egypt, geopolitical concerns seem to hamper accession to the BWC, similar to what happened in Somalia, a country that encounters political intrastate conflicts. For these reasons, the latter countries look unlikely to join in the short-term.

### 2.2.4. Latin America and the Caribbean - Haiti

Haiti remains the only country in the Americas not to ratify the BWC. Accessing to the Convention is necessary for national, as well as international, security and peace. There are many benefits for Haiti to becoming a member of the BWC, including strengthening health systems, prevention of disease outbreaks, and assistance of other States Parties to Haiti on a wide range of related topics. Government instabilities and the urgency of national issues continue to delay ratification of the convention by the national assembly.

## 2.3. General Key Messages

Each of the 15 countries mentioned above are at different stages of the ratification or accession process, as outlined in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Signatory States and States not party by progress towards ratification or accession.*

Situation	States not party and Signatures* to the Convention
Accession or ratification process well advanced	Haiti, United Republic of Tanzania*
Accession or ratification process started	Chad, Djibouti, Namibia
Waiting for further information, assistance, or have other priorities, etc.	Comoros, Eritrea, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Somalia*, South Sudan, Tuvalu
No action expected in near future	Egypt*, Syrian Arab Republic*, Israel

Despite this, the following key messages have overarching relevance to each of these countries, with regard to the importance and value of the BWC.

### **2.3.1. Healthcare - SDG 3**

Joining the Convention has a multitude of benefits in relation to health and healthcare systems for signatory countries. The multilateral nature of the Convention might provide further guidance as to how countries can combat or address epidemics or outbreaks. Membership of the Convention can further increase support for the health sector and improve emergency response capacity against biothreats. The Convention creates the opportunity and incentive for independent health sciences and medical research within the country, which can further be aided by the collaborative efforts of other members. The strengthening and development of health care systems is crucial in curbing the potential spread of communicable diseases and limiting the scope of impact that biological weapons can have. This is closely related to SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

### **2.3.2. Food, Water and Agriculture - SDG 2, 6, 14, 15**

Joining the Convention is tightly correlated to the food, water and agriculture industry. It assists member countries in establishing guidelines for food and water security. Further, it can provide a framework for environmental protection. It also allows member countries to improve the quality of research related to the agriculture industry so as to develop protective mechanisms against bioterrorism attacks. These initiatives promote healthier communities by ensuring food, water and agricultural landmass are rigidly protected. This is closely related to SDG 2, 6, 14 and 15.

### **2.3.3. Multilateral Security - SDG 16**

By signing the BWC, countries are taking proactive measures against forms of bioterrorism. This ensures that a negotiation framework can be established, thus boosting multilateral cooperation amongst actors. Signing the Convention promotes international peace and security and contributes to the achievement of SDG 16.

### **2.3.4. Normative Benefits - SDG 17**

Signing the Convention embraces the values of the international community on the condemnation of weapons of mass destruction. This builds trust across different regions and increases multilateral cooperation. Furthermore, acceding to the Convention fosters trust, transparency and support between the government and their people, contributing to the achievement of SDG 17.

## **2.4. Tools for Implementation of Strategy**

### **2.4.1. Interaction**

Meetings, workshops, conferences (including professionals, high level officials, NGOs, students etc.) on different levels.

## **2.4.2. Communication**

When diplomatic solutions provided by foreign states and international organizations fail, civil society can be called upon to put pressure on the universalization of the convention and encourage ratification by non-member countries. A civil society initiative will also have the advantage of being perceived as more legitimate and democratic than if it comes from abroad. In order to bring the Biological Weapons Convention to the attention of as many people as possible, we recommend communicating through these instruments:

### ***2.4.2.1. Social Media Campaigns***

Through the use of social media platforms (such as Twitter and Facebook), there is increased visibility of the BWC. Geographical barriers between countries that have not joined the Convention will seemingly not exist. Social media platforms allow the dissemination of content and news, raises awareness among the general public and captures intent. Furthermore, through social media, a network is built that can be useful for mobilizing funds, building influence and allowing a collaborative environment between NGO's, UN organizations and governments, and although time and money is required for this, the long-term benefits outweigh the costs.

## **2.4.3. Fundraising**

Establishing a support system to assist countries in joining the convention, through foundations or voluntary donations from governments, will ensure there are no financial barriers for countries with lower economic resources.

## **2.4.4. Specific Tools for Implementation in the Middle East**

Since the relations between the countries stay complex and strained, the meetings between the representatives of the countries can be an important step to facilitate the process of cooperation. The meeting between Egyptian and Israeli presidents is assumed to improve the relationship between the two nations. Step-by-step construction of new relations based on the meetings is one of the ways to build a new political environment. This new environment can lead to a better future.

Conferences and meetings between representatives on different levels can renew discussion of the creation of a 'Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone'. This can lead to tighter security, boosting of biosafety and the creation of the international database to control the biological weapons proliferation.

## **2.5. Suggested Partners and Possible Venues**

### **2.5.1. Cooperation**

Partnerships with NGO's can assist the UNODA in spreading the message and convincing governments in joining the BWC. These include;

- Reaching Critical Will

- Parliamentarians for Global Action
- The Fourth Freedom Forum
- International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility
- Physicians for Social Responsibility
- International Peace Bureau
- BioWeapons Prevention Project
- Arms Control Association

## **2.5.2. Regional**

Each of the regions discussed above could also benefit in bringing forth the BWC to certain region-specific partners.

### **2.5.2.1. *The Pacific Region***

Coalition of Low-Lying Atoll Nations on Climate Change: This Coalition is relevant to Tuvalu and Kiribati but hosts members from numerous other regions of the world who are signatory to the BWC, including the Maldives, Marshall Islands and Tokelau. A UNODA presence at one of their meetings, in collaboration with WHO or UNDP can discuss the safeguards ensured by the BWC and how they are connected with climate change.

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific: UNODA needs to push the agenda of the BWC with this organization, as it directly concerns the topic of disarmament within the Asia-Pacific region. The mandate for the UNRCPD spans 43 different states, the majority of which have signed/acceded/ratified the BWC. they often hold workshops, which provide an opportunity for UNODA to work in partnership to discuss disarmament goals in relation to the BWC.

Pacific Islands Forum: The Pacific Islands Forum is a great platform for UNODA to engage with the Pacific island region. One of the cornerstones of the Pacific Island Forum is that “*As one Blue Pacific region, we have built solidarity through collective action and one voice in the global arena*”, as stated by Baron Waqa, President of Nauru at the Forum in 2017. In order to achieve this ‘collective action’ and ‘one voice’, discussions can be fostered at the Forum that highlight the need for consistency in international conventions and treaties. The majority of States who attend the Forum have already signed, acceded to, or ratified the Convention. This will allow for productive multilateral discussion between UNODA, Signatory/Accession States and those who have not yet acceded to the Convention as to why the Convention is relevant and important for the Pacific region.

### **2.5.2.2. *The Middle East***

League of Arab States: As the organization’s purpose is to reinforce the collaboration among Arab states in terms of political and economic shared interests, UNODA should strengthen cooperation with this institution.

Union for the Mediterranean: The policy dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean (UMF) emphasizes territorial dialogue involving individuals representing governmental institutions, regional and international organizations, civil society and economic institutions. Communication between national experts and stakeholders is an integral element of the trade on mandates in order to share different experiences to locate the best tools. In the future, this would lead to the promotion of projects of cooperation.

International Maritime Organization: The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is concerned with maritime safety and environmental issues conserving life under the water. IMO has established an Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP). Through this program, the IMO is assisting member states with socio-economic development and enhancement of marine environment protection. IMO's platform can be used to increase awareness of member states about biological weapons and the impacts of such weapons on the marine environment as well as coastal countries.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force: The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) was established on 31 May 1974 through resolution 350 which was passed by the United Nations Security Council. This resolution was passed to maintain the ceasefire between Syria and Israel. Since its establishment, the mandate of the UNDOF has been renewed after every six months. Regardless of the extension of the mandate, the situation in the Israeli-Syrian sector has been tense and is likely to remain the same. The situation would only change if a comprehensive settlement for the problems of the region has been compiled. Therefore, the Secretary - General has established the need for a continued presence of UNDOF in the region due to the circumstances. Their presence in the area has been classified as crucial by the Secretary-General.

### **2.5.2.3. Africa**

African Union: Since aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063, approved by the African Union, calling for “a peaceful and secure Africa”, UNODA and the AU should cooperate tightly. This would allow the UN to delegate and oversee the ratification process of the BWC to the AU in order to encourage regional cooperation, thus complying with article 52 of the UN Charter.

Southern African Development Community: The Southern African Development Community was established in 1992 and comprises 16 states, including several of the non-signatories (Comoros, Namibia and Tanzania). This organization works on peace-building, food security and eradication of poverty. The collaboration within this organization will provide with the opportunity of more fruitful negotiations and discussions between non-signatories and UNODA with support of BWC signatory states.

### **2.5.2.4. Latin America and the Caribbean – Haiti**

Alliance of Small Island States: AOSIS has 39 Member States, including 16 in the Caribbean, 15 in the Pacific Ocean and 8 across the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and South China Sea. Out of their members, five have not yet acceded to or ratified the BWC. UNODA can utilize the other 34 Member States to promote the accession and ratification of the BWC. As the alliance focuses on

having a consolidated voice as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the agenda for universalization of the BWC should become a primary point of importance.

### **2.5.3. International**

On an international level, there are several organizations that would be valuable partners in working with those countries who have not joined the BWC. These include;

- World Health Organization: cooperation in health standards and scientific research.
- Food and Agriculture Organization: cooperation in food protection and conservation, water security, and agriculture protection.
- African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States: cooperation in job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- International Fund for Agricultural Development: The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) promotes agricultural growth. This form of growth is aimed at being environmentally sustainable and then integrated into ecosystems. IFAD is an implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). These are known as the key financial mechanisms for addressing issues such as poverty and sustainable ecosystem management. Hence, their resources could be utilized to increase awareness about biological weapons convention and the harmful effects on agriculture.

## **CONCLUSION**

The modern world is highly interconnected and has shifted from unipolar to multipolar. Although the separation between countries is declining in many parts of the world, strained international relations may remain an obstacle to achieving sustainable development. Military conflicts, especially those that involve the use of weapons of mass destruction, undermine the stability and future prospects of States. This contemporary situation requires that all countries engage in multilateral cooperation to deal with new challenges. The impacts of biological weapons are wide-ranging; from harming economic growth, exacerbating the effects of climate change and the ability to deteriorate relations between States. These impacts can result in the effectiveness of multilateralism being undermined. Despite these potential threats, new technologies can offer the opportunity for closer interaction and cooperation between States, with an aim to achieve a common goal.

New technology has transformed warfare and resultantly, weapons of mass destruction are one of the main challenges facing countries today. Despite this, biological weapon proliferation remains a low priority on many government agendas. Biological weapons can be used not only to attack humans, but also to provoke the eradication of livestock and crops. Furthermore, the deliberate release of biological agents or toxins can be organized by state or non-state actors. Diseases caused by such weapons would not confine themselves to national borders and could spread rapidly around the world. In addition to the tragic loss of lives, the economic consequences of a biological weapons attack would be devastating. All states are therefore potentially at risk, and all would benefit from joining the BWC. The BWC was created more than 45 years ago, but it is not yet universal, illustrating that new approaches must be taken in order to achieve universalization.

Taking into consideration the foreign and domestic policy, the Non-Signatory countries can be divided into groups: those that have not signed because of a lack of awareness, and those which have not signed due to their national priorities being elsewhere. A large majority of countries, particularly the islands of the Pacific, Haiti and African countries, still have not signed or ratified the Convention, predominantly due to a lack of information. This absence of information on the political, economic, social or humanitarian benefits is still causing a delay to the process of accession and ratification. The second group of countries, particularly those of the Middle East, including Egypt, Syria and Israel are, due to geopolitical conflicts and the historical tensions in the region, not expected to ratify the Convention in the near future.

Taking all this into consideration, the universalization of the Convention requires, at least, better communication in order to raise awareness about the security, economic and social interest of each State in joining the BWC. Joining the BWC may help these countries to overcome some of their national issues. It will boost the development of their healthcare systems, provide security and protection within the regions and unite countries in dealing with climate change. At the international level, it would contribute to maintaining world peace and security, boost multilateral cooperation and illustrate a commitment to the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Countries of the Pacific need higher awareness among the general public, government and political elites. In order to achieve this result, network and social media presence are essential tools to gain the much-needed attention. The Middle East countries require meetings between representatives of the countries, a step-by-step construction of more sustainable, more cooperative relations and collaboration in the field of information. The African countries need more investment,

international cooperation and assistance. Signing the Convention can be beneficial for all parties involved. For all the countries it can provide public health reinforcement, prevent disease and starvation, provide agricultural defense, ensure the maintenance of peace and bolster international security.

Taking into consideration the needs and priorities of these regions of the world, the common purpose of security and sustainable development, the universalization of the Convention is an effective way of achieving improvements to international social, economic, scientific and technological capacities. The universalization of the Convention will therefore guarantee that States work multilaterally with a view to promoting a more secure common future for the global community.

**International Labour Organization**  
**CHANGING THE WORLD OF WORK**

On the basis of the ILO Convention 190 concerning the elimination of violence and  
harassment in the world of work

57<sup>th</sup> Graduate Study Programme, United Nations

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**ILO WORKING GROUP - VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN  
THE WORLD OF WORK AND THE 2030 AGENDA**

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## **Acronyms and abbreviations**

ILS: International Labour Standards

ILO: International Labour Office

NGOs: Non-governmental Organizations

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

DWA: Decent Work Agenda

ITUS: International Trade Union Confederation

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

OECD: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

LGBT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

EU: European Union

## 1. Introduction

The world of work is organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO), as a vivid organism of the United Nations along with the national legislations of every country. The ILO parliament is composed of more than 4,500 delegates from 187 Member States, international organizations and non-governmental international organizations (NGOs). All these bodies gather together during the International Labour Conference (ILC). The major role of the ILO is first to review key social and labour issues and second to find sustainable solutions to them by establishing and adopting International Labour Standards the conference (ILS). These ILS can be in the form of conventions, recommendations or protocols. Until now, the international labour organization (ILO) managed to put in forth a series of eight ‘fundamental’ conventions which cover topics that are considered to be the core of principles and rights at work. There are also other ratified conventions which member states work with and should commit to send their reports regarding their implementation to the ILO every 6 years.

The International Labour Organization is committed to attain four objectives. The decent work agenda, being celebrated for its 100 years this year, includes all these objectives:

- Employment, creation and enterprise development.
- Social protection.
- Standards and rights at work.
- Governance and social dialogue.

These goals are presented under the umbrella of universality, rights-based and transformability in a way that it leaves no one behind. In general, the Organization would work on enhancing and improving jobs around the globe. This is compiled with the 2030 agenda of the United Nations dealing with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The work plan of the International Labour Organization is focused on the 8th Sustainable Development Goal which emphasizes on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. This goal is fragmented meticulously in the form of an alliance with the remaining 16 goals linked to labour and work settings.

## 2. International Labour Standards Creation

Compared to any International Standards regulating universal concerns such as health policies or educational projects, International Labour Standards are of their own particularities. This is

clearly apparent with regard to the decision-making process that led to the formulation of laws and conventions binding the labour field. This process is, simply, based on tripartism.

In more practical terms, Tripartism consists mainly of three groups: The Governing Body, the Employers and the Workers' representatives. It is in the same way that multilateralism, as a diplomatic concept function. All countries work together for the betterment of their societies. it is not only a need arising because of the global agitations, and not simply a reflection, but the total collaboration and cooperation between different parties; either governmental or non-governmental, without exclusion of anybody to ensure the sustainability and Organization of international systems on the basis of shared values, principles and norms. Simply put, from a multilateral perspective, the alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal would lead to a solid improvement in the world, as in opposition to unilateralism.

Noteworthy, a decision cannot be made or for a motion to pass there should be at least two-thirds majority vote of all members of the plenary. It is important to say that this decision-making mechanism prevents Member States to make coalitions with workers or employers' groups which ensures total transparency. In a thorough description of this mechanism, there are three stages included before obtaining a final outcome. As a first step, the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization has to identify a problematic or an issue. The latter is formulated as a topic stating the main issue with a brief introduction and a description of the motion.

This topic is presented to the agenda that will be later on addressed during the international labour conference usually with a view to a double discussion (discussion at two sessions of the conference). Single discussions can also take place but only in case of emergency or special circumstances. All of this occurs with an already fixed schedule that takes into consideration the dates of the upcoming conference.

A series of consultations take place before an instrument gets adopted. The (ILO) Office starts by preparing a report accompanied with a questionnaire which would be sent to all governments of the Member States. These governments are in the obligation to discuss this report with the representative organizations, unions or associations of employers and workers within their country before submitting any of their comments, critiques, disputes or points of agreements.

A further report is then prepared by the office with the main questions which will be considered during the conference. Building on the comments received and those made during the conference, the ILO Office drafts a convention or a recommendation which they send to the

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governments of the Member States who carry a second consultation with representative associations of workers and employers. A final version of the convention or recommendation is presented by the ILO Office as a final work and sent to governments before the next conference takes place. Based on the agreement of all bodies each clause of the convention/recommendation is discussed and either adopted or rejected.

As a quintessential part contributing to the success of such International Labour Conferences, combining social dialogue and tripartism together helps in resolving not only social issues but also economic ones. These issues might include the question of raising wages and improving working conditions. For the betterment of a nation, it is important that the tripartism unit ensures an effective social dialogue which would in return boosts the society's development and evolution. In order to have a sound social dialogue, the three parts need to take part into a situation characterized by 4 elements:

- Symmetric information
- Mutual commitment and political will
- Respect for the fundamental rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining
- Entitle legal and institutional framework

Given that there are different national judiciary systems and forms of negotiations, all member states agreed on the need of having a universal mechanism that would enforce labour standards creation and improvement.

A third type of instrument can be employed by the governing bodies in order to address a specific issue: Protocols. They have the same power as a convention (it is open to ratification, it has a binding character.). It mostly serves as an extension or a specification of certain aspects which relate to the convention and is especially relevant in case a convention needs to be updated.

### **3. Key discussion points leading to the adoption of the instrument**

The Convention 190 is the latest instrument adopted by the ILO at Geneva in the 108<sup>th</sup> Session on June 2019, which relates to the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. The Convention states that everyone has the right to work under conditions of freedom from violence and harassment, which is related by ILO as a human right, that represents human dignity a mutual respect of human beings. ILO calls for an attitude of “zero tolerance” towards

behaviours and practices relating violence and harassment in working conditions. Additionally, the Convention remarkably includes the recognition of gender-based violence and harassment.

Giving the process of adopting an ILS (Instrument labour standard), the convention 190 passes through several stages before getting into its last complete shape. One of the most essential steps is to submit the report to the state members and discuss the conclusions. Therefore, the main elements of this convention that were discussed during the conference, between employers, workers and the governing body are briefly summarized in these following sections.

#### Discussion 1: Definition and Scope

The scope of the Convention is described in Article 2 and 3 which includes the protection of workers like employees defined by national laws, trainers, interns, apprentices, volunteers, job applicants, jobseekers and individuals exercising as employers. According to Article 1 of Convention 190, the term “violence and harassment” in the workplace is defined as the “range of unacceptable behaviors and practices, or threats thereof, whether a single occurrence or repeated, that aim at, result in, or are likely to result in physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm”. Violence and harassment in the workplace touch multiple sensible dimensions of the human being where the dignity in the development of working activities is surpassed by all the parties related.

The creation of the Convention discussed main ideas regarding the topic which included the urgency to provide solutions to vulnerable groups through the engagement of a tripartite procedure. Particularly, the Convention acknowledges gender-based violence and harassment, aiming to integrate a gender-responsive approach. “Gender-based” harassment and violence relate this behavior directed to a particular sex or gender in a disproportionately treatment, which also includes sexual harassment. This approach highlights the risk factors regarding gender stereotypes and other forms of discrimination that leads to unequal gender-based relations in the workplace. A previous and controversies discussion on the inclusion of gender-based violence and harassment took place before this session as well.

#### Discussion 2: Protection and prevention

Several interactions took place between the *tripartnaires* regardless the content and the form. Indeed, there were discussions and negotiations about each article of this second part (protection and prevention). The main outcome is that article 7 and 8 did not come to huge edits due to the

plurality of the opinions given by each part. For instance, to prevent violence and harassment in the world of work, the article 8 establishes a list of three appropriate measures to be taken by each member. Each of it went through a whole negotiation session with each member state during the discussion. Most of the answers to adopt and keep what was suggested by the ILO, were favorable and express no opposition. However, some employers, workers and governments indicated that few points should be edited and/or precise. According to the regrouped answers, the Organization of employers advocated a restriction founded on capacities and resources but also asked that the expression ‘in the world of work’ should be replaced by ‘in the field of work’. Nevertheless, more effervescence is present among the discussion about the article 9. Indeed, this last article sparked more questions about the introductory paragraph. All in all, the negotiation of this part was mainly about being precise and pernickety regarding the terms to use in the convention, the actions to hound in each article and the commitment of each member.

### Discussion 3: Enforcement, remedies, assistance

A big part of the discussion took place on the topic of “enforcement and remedies” regarding violence and harassment in the world of work. Looking through the convention, members made commitments on the adoption of measures such as the enforcement of national laws, as well as to provide an appropriate environment for carrying remedies for the resolution of disputes. Some of the mechanisms and procedures adopted by the convention include spaces for investigation procedures and mechanisms of dispute resolution at an internal and an external level in the workplace, the creation of courts and tribunals, the inclusion of mechanisms that protect complainants, victims or witnesses in cases of denunciation of violence or harassment. These mechanisms also guarantee support for victims regarding social, medical, administrative or legal measures, the provision of privacy and confidentiality to the victim, the introduction of sanctions to the aggressors, the provision of gender-responsive complaint and support for victims of gender-based violence and harassment, the recognition of domestic violence as an unacceptable practice in the workplace, the ability to withdraw from the workplace in case of justified situations in which life, health or safety is exposed to violence and harassment and ensuring that labour authorities are enough empowered to deal with situations of violence and harassment in the workplace.

The discussion carried out during the creation of the convention paid intensive attention on how the adequate mechanisms to be implemented by the members regarding violence and harassment.

Likewise, most of the discussion registered in the 108<sup>th</sup> Session in 2019 included the clarification of concepts and the edition of certain terms in order to reach a higher agreement among the members.

#### Discussion 4: Guidance, training and awareness raising

After agreeing on other aspects, which include the definition and scope of the term, “violence and harassment”; core principles; protection and prevention; enforcement and remedies, the tripartite partners also saw the importance concerning the inclusion and documentation on guidance, training and awareness-raising.

There was also a common agreement between the partners that the enforcement of the agreed aspects will not succeed without adequate ‘guidance, training and awareness-raising.’ However, there were some notable disagreements and debates on how this will be achieved. Some states expressed discomfort on this aspect, arguing that it was against their values, political culture and ideology. Despite these debates and long-discussions, the tripartite partners managed to find a common ground on how, when and what should be done in order to advance and ensure “guidance, training and awareness-raising” regarding violence and harassment in the world of work.

In order to prevent violence and harassment in the world of work, serious guidance, training and awareness-raising is a prerequisite. The need for guidance, training and awareness-raising is addressed in Article 11 of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190). According to Article 11:

*Each Member, in consultation with representative employers’ and workers’ organizations, shall seek to ensure that:*

*(a) Violence and harassment in the world of work is addressed in relevant national policies, such as those concerning occupational safety and health, equality and non-discrimination, and migration;*

*(b) Employers and workers and their organizations, and relevant authorities, are provided with guidance, resources, training or other tools, in accessible formats as appropriate, on violence and harassment in the world of work, including on gender-based violence and harassment; and*

(c) *Initiatives, including awareness-raising campaigns, are undertaken.*

It is encouraging to note that several member-states took initiatives in including all that in their national policies, statutes and local-laws. Nevertheless, this role is not only limited to the tripartite partners, but also private individuals, authors, researchers, students, practitioners and institutions are important in the process of guidance, training and awareness-raising of violence and harassment in the world of work. Several methods are used in the process of guidance, training and awareness-raising, for example, publishing, teaching at institutions just to name a few.

To conclude, resolutions that have been taken at the end of the conference were mainly shaped into engagements of each member state to adopt, promote and effectively implement the ILS. Regarding guidance for preventing and tackling violence of harassment, it is necessary that the Members take measures allowing the enforcement of national laws and regulations, as well as to ensure the access to remedies and resolution mechanisms for giving solutions to cases of violence and harassment.

#### **4. ILS and the Agenda 2030 based on DW4SD Platform**

The Convention 190 is an embodiment of a dynamic dialogue between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decent Work Agenda (DWA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The definition of violence and harassment, which is expressed in the Article No. 1 evokes that human rights in the workplace mostly relates physical, economical and psychological damages. It also integrates gender-based violence and includes the relevant role of the family in working environments. The DWA strongly relates to the thematic areas of *Health and Safety at the Workplace* and *Gender Equality and non-Discrimination*. On the other side, (SDG) links the need to promote healthy working environments and well-being, the elimination of violence against women, the protection of labour rights, and the effective development of transparent institutions.

Regarding the scope of the Convention, which specifies the definition of workers (including trainees, job applicants, apprentices, volunteers, interns) in Article 2, links the thematic areas of *Informal economy* and the *Future of work* proposed by the (DWA), and the SDG on decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities and peace, justice and strong institutions. Specifically, the (SDG) goals relate the importance to integrate in society persons with disabilities and young people, the provision of secure workplaces, the promotion of policies that

encourage productive activities, decent jobs, entrepreneurship and innovation as well as the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. (SDG) encourage the empowerment of society through the inclusion of people by respecting characteristics such as ethnicity, sex, age, disabilities, among others. Transparent institutions are necessary in order to promote and to develop an effective adoption of the Convention. Similarly, the description of a decent place of work underscores the creation of appropriate human conditions of work for sustainable societies, and the importance to include the impact of technology and climate change as the main topics in the future of work to be included in the workplace.

When it comes to the core principles of the Convention, the Members propose a call to commit with the disapproval of any kind of violence and harassment in the workplace, and promotes the adoption of strategies, the creation of sanctions, and the development of tools that allows the control and inspection of these considerations. The Convention highlights an urgent need to fight equality and non-discrimination, as well as to increase efforts in education and training. Correspondingly, the (DWA) in its 24 thematic areas is integrated in the Convention through areas such as social dialogue and tripartism, forced labor, freedom of association and collective bargaining's and gender equality and non-discrimination. This is also supported by the (SDG) on its purpose to promote peace, justice and strong institutions through the reduction of all forms of violence, and the promotion of the rule of law in national and international levels. Similarly, the protection of labor rights includes safe and secure workplace for all workers including migrants and people with precarious employment. The considerations must also be pointed out in the national policies, including fiscal, social protection and wage policies, as part of the purpose to Reduce Inequalities. The development, diffusion and transfer of technologies to developing countries also promote an environment of *Partnership* in the workplace. Table 1 relates the 24 thematic areas and each of them linked to the 17 SDGs in regard to the Convention 190.

Table 4-1: DW4SD - SDGs and ILO Convention 190

ILO Convention 190		DW4SD Thematic Areas	Relevant SDGs Targets
<b>Definitions</b>	Article 1	10. Gender Equality and non-Discrimination	1.4, 5.2, 5.5, 8.5, 8.8, 16.1, 16.6
	Harm includes physical, psychological, sexual & economical	12. Health and Safety at the Workplace	
	Gender based violence targets persons based on their sex or gender		
<b>Scope</b>	Article 2	9. Future of Work	8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 10.2, 16.3, 16.6
	Protects all in world of work (workers, trainees, job applicants, apprentices)	13. Informal Economy	
	Applies to all sectors		
	Article 3	9. Future of Work	8.5, 8.8, 16.1
Defines the world of work i.e. public & private places where the employee is paid, during commute & trips, communication channels	12. Health and Safety at the Workplace		
	23. Working conditions		
<b>Core principles</b>	Article 4	9. Future of Work	4.7, 8.8, 10.4, 16.1, 16.3, 16.7, 17.17
	Commitment	21. Social Dialogue and Tripartism	
	Adopt strategies		

	Sanctions Developing tools Control and inspection in the adoption Prohibition of violence (adoption of national regulations and law)		
	Article 5 Promote and realize fundamental principles & rights that promote decent work	7. Forced Labour 8. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining 21. Social Dialogue and Tripartism	8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 16.1, 16.2, 16.10
	Article 6 Right to equality and non-discrimination	7. Forced Labour 8. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining 10. Gender Equality and non-Discrimination 12. Health and Safety at the Workplace 16. Labour Standards 23. Working conditions	5.1, 5.5, 8.5, 8.7, 8.8, 10.3, 16.6, 16.10, 16.b
<b>Protection &amp; Prevention</b>	Article 7 Members will adopt violence and harassment laws and regulations with no prejudice and consistent to Article 1	16. Labour Standards	8.8, 16.b
	Article 8 Appropriate measures to prevent violence	13. Informal Economy 16. Labour Standards	1.3, 8.8, 10.2, 16.b

	and involvement of national authorities	17. National Employment Policies	
	Article 9 Laws and regulations adopted by members should set appropriate steps for employers to adhere to fitting their degree of control.	12. Health and Safety at the Workplace 16. Labour Standards 17. National Employment Policies 21. Social Dialogue and Tripartism	8.5, 8.8, 10.4, 16.1, 16.6, 16.7
<b>Enforcement &amp; Remedies</b>	Article 10 Appropriate enforcement and monitoring measures for the laws and regulations	8. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining 12. Health and Safety at the Workplace 16. Labour Standards 17. National Employment Policies	8.8, 16.3, 16.6, 16.10
<b>Guidance, Training &amp; Awareness-raising</b>	Article 11 Relevant national policies Provision of guidance resources and training	16. Labour Standards 17. National Employment Policies 20. Skills and Employability 21. Social Dialogue and Tripartism	8.5, 8.8, 16.3
<b>Methods of Application</b>	Article 12 Implementation of the convention should be done through the national legislative process including collective bargaining agreements and health and safety regulations	8. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining 12. Health and Safety at the workplace 17. National Employment Policies 21. Social Dialogue and Tripartism	8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 16.3, 16.6

As summarized in Table 1, each of the thematic areas of the (ILS) presents strong relationship with the (SDGs) and the articles of the Convention. The content shows clear harmony between the principles of the ILO and the efforts towards the construction of better working conditions for the benefit of society. Figure 1 summarizes the links between the Convention 190 and the (SDGs) covered under its performance and exposes the intensity and of each relation.

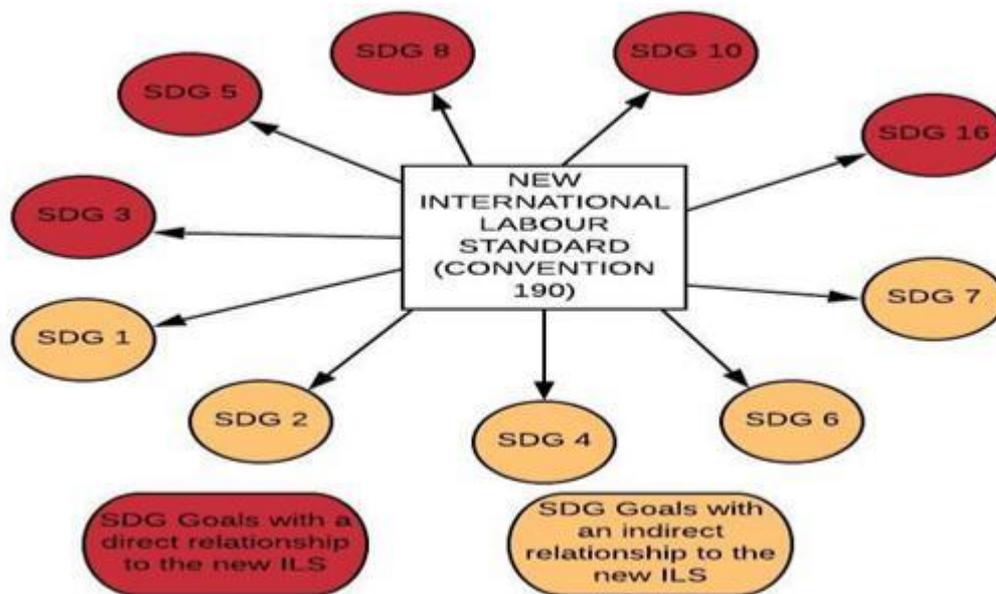


Figure 4-1: Link between the Convention 190 with the Agenda 2030

Source: DW4SD Platform (2019)

Concerning the (SDGs) there are connections between the new (ILS) and the Agenda 2030 (17 SDGs). We can therefore find implicit and explicit links between these two elements. There are some (SDGs) that are directly linked with the new (ILS) which include SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 Reduced Inequality and SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. There are also some SDGs that are indirectly linked to the new ILS such as SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals. It can be seen that so many aspects of the SDGs are covered in the new ILS, which is a big step towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. However, the missing aspects or linkages of the other aspects of the agenda 2030 do not in any way suggest that the new ILS is incomplete or ineffective but rather it is serving for a specified purpose.

In fact, the new ILS (Convention No. 190) directly addresses the issue of gender equality in order to eradicate violence and harassment in the world of work. The convention specifically

states that, *“Acknowledging that gender-based violence and harassment disproportionately affects women and girls, and recognizing that an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach, which tackles underlying causes and risk factors, including gender stereotypes, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and unequal gender-based power relations, is essential to ending violence and harassment in the world of work...”*.

Plus, concerning the SDG 10, the relation is apparent and explicit due. Inequality can be seriously reduced or eliminated if violence and harassment in the world of work is dealt with. The convention states that, *“Recognizing that violence and harassment in the world of work can constitute a human rights violation or abuse, and that violence and harassment is a threat to equal opportunities, is unacceptable and incompatible with decent work...”* which refers to the diverse consequences that might be faced in a situation where harassment and violence are present.

In addition, this convention promotes peaceful and inclusive societies by allowing individuals to live and work in a world work peacefully and in better conditions, which can provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and that’s the main goal of the SDG 16.

The question remains whether or not the new ILS is conducive to the achievement of the SDGs. Given the fact that decisions both in the making and in the adoption of resolutions and conventions are not legally binding, it becomes so difficult to predict or judge the conduciveness of the new ILS to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Hence, the success of the new ILS to achieve the SDGs depends on the behavior of state and non-state actors. The most crucial factor in determining the success or likely success of the new ILS to the achievement of the SDGs is for state and non-state actors to act in good faith. To illustrate, Figure 2 demonstrates the dynamics and the relationships between the articles of the Convention, the 24 thematic areas of the ILS and its relations with the SDGs.

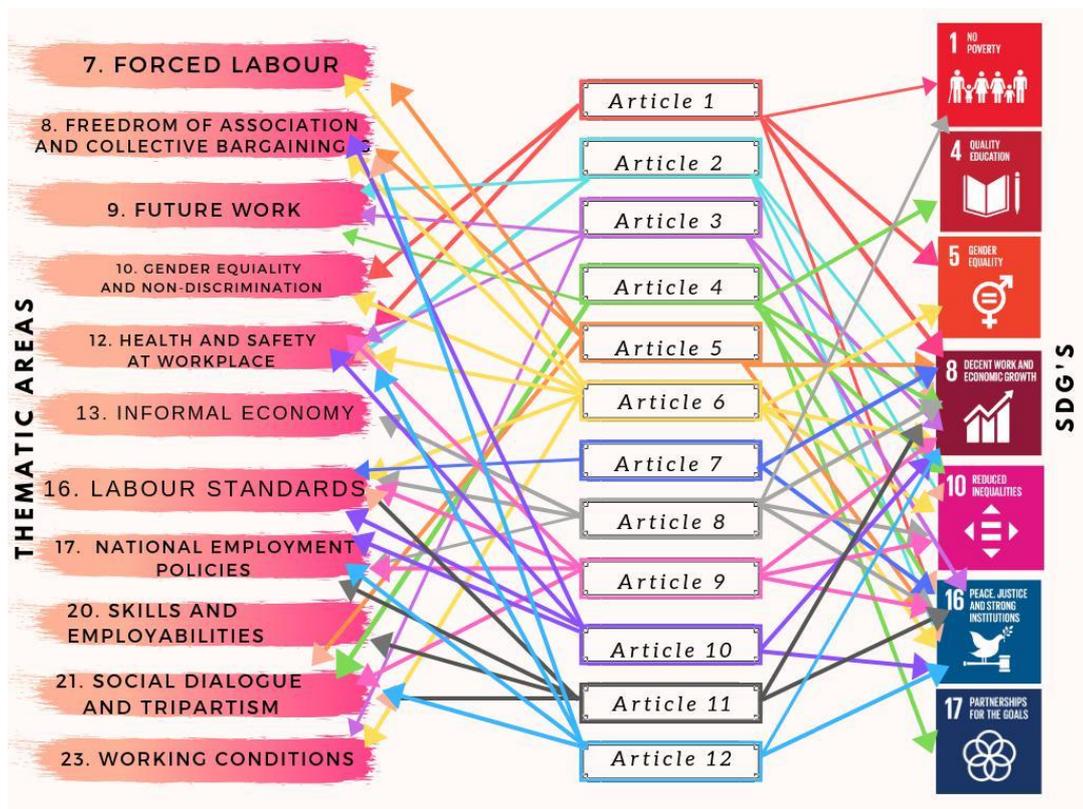


Figure 4-2: Connections between articles of ILO convention 190, SDGs and Thematic areas

Source: the authors, from ILO convention 190 and DW4SD (2019)

## 5. Violence and harassment in the workplace: Case study

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) global rights index documents violations of internationally recognized labour rights by governments and employers. Some of the striking points concerning violated rights include the right to collective bargaining, the right to strike and the right to civil liberties. The Index lists the worst countries as well as the worst companies in which workers rights are violated. It also showcases countries which show a better alignment to the international labour standards. The index was taken as a reference for the selection of two countries and the way they approach the issue of violence and harassment in the workplace. This study case is based on a selection of two countries: Bangladesh and Denmark.

### Case 1: Bangladesh

Among the countries with low guarantees of rights in the workplace, Bangladesh presents several cases of violence, mass dismissals and arrests of union leaders. In the following section we will give an overview of the economic and social aspects of Bangladesh.

- *Country Overview*

Bangladesh has a population of 164.7 million inhabitants and is equally balanced (50% men, 50% women). According to the Headcount ratio developed by the world bank about 24% of this population lives beneath the poverty line. When it comes to its economy, the services sector holds major shares (more than 50% in gross domestic product (GDP)) followed by the industrial sector (more than 25% in gross domestic product (GDP)). The latter has seen the rise of the private ready-made garment industry where most jobs are occupied by women. The practices within this sector have been highly criticized: low wages, poor working conditions, massive arrests...

Bangladesh became a member of the ILO in 1972.

On a scale from 0 to 1, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has computed the Human Development Index of Bangladesh for 2018 at 0.608. This value falls in the category of medium human development. On the UNDP's Gender Equality Index, which measures gender inequalities according to three aspects (reproductive health, empowerment and economic status), the country ranks 136th with a score of 0.542.

When it comes to the achievement of the SDGs, Bangladesh ranks 116th on the SDG index which is lower than the average score of the region. The country has just achieved one of the SDGs (Responsible consumption and production) and is facing major challenges achieving the rest of the SDGs as can be seen through the low rate of female labour participation (goal 5) as well as a continuous decrease in the subjective wellbeing (goal 3).

- *Violence and harassment in the workplace: the legal framework*

The following table presents the different positions of the three governing bodies regarding the adoption of the 190 Convention and 206 Recommendation.

*Table 5-1: Final vote on the adoption of the convention 190/recommendation 206*

	<b>Convention</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>Bangladesh G</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bangladesh E</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Against</b>
<b>Bangladesh W</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Source:** (ILO, 2019)

As indicated in the report of the 2019 conference, the government members of Bangladesh presented controversies on specific issues amended by the convention. These controversies concerned article 5 which recognizes specific rights such as freedom of association, elimination of forced or compulsory labour, the abolition of child labour and the prevention of discrimination. They also expressed doubts on the characterization of what can be considered as “unacceptable behavior” in the workplace which they believe is highly influenced by cultural and social practices.

The country has also ratified other ILO Conventions notably:

- Convention C029: Forced labour convention (1930)
- Convention C087: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948)
- Convention C100: Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)
- Convention C111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (1958)

But still hasn't adopted many other conventions including:

- Convention C148: Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) (1977)
- Convention C184: Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention (2001)
- Convention C189: Domestic Workers Convention (2011)

→ *The Bangladesh garment industry case*

The case of Ashiana Garment Industries is a representative situation of the violation and harassment occurring at workplaces. The Bangladeshi garment industry showed practices that heavily affected workers' well-being and health through factors associated to gender-based violence as well as the prohibition to indicate and to defend better working conditions. This situation was reported in Bangladeshi Garment factories in which workers experienced psychological trauma, depression, fatigue and sexual harassment leading to high rates of stress and burnout. The manufacturing practices demanding high levels of productivity and hierarchical attitudes that deployed working conditions. Moreover, additional violations of working conditions were reported in the garment sector. In January 2019, five thousand employees protesting for better working conditions were brutally attacked by police forces leading to the death of one employee and another fifty injured in Dhaka. More than fifty thousand garments worked acknowledged the need for an improvement of the working conditions.

Case 2: Denmark

The 2019 ITUC Global rights index provides a list of countries in which violations of workers' rights are sporadic. This list comprises Scandinavian countries as well as other countries such as Germany or Italy. We decided to focus our attention on the case of Denmark.

- *Country overview*

Denmark is one of the member countries of the OECD. It has an ageing and equally balanced population of 5,77 million inhabitants (50.2% men, 49.7% women). Denmark has become a member of the ILO since 1919. On a scale from 0 to 1, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has computed the Human Development Index of Denmark for 2018 at 0.929. This value falls in the category of very high human development. On UNDP's Gender Equality Index, the country ranked 11th with a score of 0.04.

When it comes to the achievement of the SDGs, Denmark earned the first place and has achieved already three of the 17 goals set for the 2030: ending poverty (Goal 1), reducing inequalities (Goal 10) and the achievement of peace and justice through strong institutions (Goal 16). Even though, some challenges remain, the remaining distances to achieving the targets are small in most areas.

- *Violence and harassment in the workplace: the legal framework*

The following table presents the different positions of the three governing bodies regarding the adoption of the 190 Convention and 206 Recommendation.

*Table 5-2: Final vote on the adoption of the convention 190/recommendation 206*

	<b>Convention</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>Denmark G</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Denmark E</b>	<b>Abstention</b>	<b>Against</b>
<b>Denmark W</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>

*Source: ILO, 2019*

The country has also ratified other ILO Conventions notably:

- Convention C029: Forced labour convention (1930)
- Convention C087: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948)

- Convention C100: Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)
- Convention C111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (1958)

Other conventions including: But hasn't ratified many other conventions including:

- Convention C157: Maintenance of Social Security Rights Convention (1982)
- Convention C171: Night Work Convention (1990)
- Convention C189: Domestic Workers Convention (2011)

The legal framework concerning violence and harassment in the workplace is well-developed in Denmark. Being a member of the European Union, Denmark needs to abide to any instrument (directive, resolution.) that is adopted by the parliament. An example of such instrument is the resolution on combating sexual harassment and abuse in the EU which was adopted in 2017. The text emphasizes fundamental rights such as equality of treatment and non-discrimination and calls for measures to combat sexual harassment in the workplace more effectively. It also draws attention to forms of discrimination often experienced by women and individuals from the LGBT+ community. Danish legislation also aims to provide a set of minimum rights regarding working conditions including payment and working hours, the development of collective agreements between the trade union, employees and employers, temporary workers' rights, recognition of freedom of association, and strong regulations on equivalent pay between men and women and gender-based equality.

→*Improving better working conditions: the Danish case*

Novozymes is a large biotech Danish company that develops industrial microorganisms, biopolymers and enzymes, and which employs more than 6,000 people in 30 different countries. The company reflects the application of international labour standards regarding aspects such as the promotion of dialogue between the employees and unions, the inclusion of employees in the decision-making process of the company, the creation of channels of communication between hierarchies and the inclusion of a culture of respect and tolerance between co-workers. The implementation of these practices affected positively the performance of the workers, leading to lower stress levels in the workplace as well as an increase in the productivity of the company. In parallel to the case of Novozymes, Denmark is acknowledged as one of the globe's lowest income inequality countries, and gender inequality play a prominent role in the world of work.

Similarly, Denmark presents relevant advances in the gender topics in the world of work. For instance, according to the World Economic Forum's gender equality index in 2018, Denmark

occupied the 8<sup>th</sup> position regarding the Global Gender Gap score, and the position number 1 related to educational attainment. Regarding the balance in political issues, Denmark occupies the 13<sup>th</sup> position on political empowerment with a remarkable participation of women in the parliament, in which about 40 % of the representatives are female. However, Denmark must still work in relevant areas for the harmonization of labour laws and gender integration, considering that the country still shows deficiencies in relation to health and female survival, for which it occupies the 76<sup>th</sup> position of the same index.

## 6. Conclusion

After the foundation of the International Labour Organization in 1919, the ILO has maintained a strong commitment in the development and maintenance of the international labour standards for the promotion of labour rights around all latitudes of the planet. One hundred years after its appearance, the legacy of the ILO is reflected in the inclusion of highly sensitive issues for the provision of a safe and dignified work environment through its conventions, recommendations and policies.

One hundred years of experience show the evolution of labour laws of all countries that are part of the ILO and mainly reflects that it is a path that must be achieved through the dialogue, consensus and discussion between the different Stakeholders. The balance is perhaps one of the governing principles of the process of improvement, verification and application of the international labour standards in which all the actors must commit and compromise with the dignity of the human rights in the workplace.

Similarly, years of dialogue, debate and timely intervention in the practices adopted by the different countries regarding the world of work, reflects that the role of the ILO is still pertinent and necessary, and perhaps more relevant, since the future of work must respond to new and more complex challenges. Globalization, the inclusion of technology in the workplace, the introduction of practices such as telework, among other modern practices has transformed traditional scenarios in the workplace, making urgently further the intervention of national and international actors in order to regulate the current practices that interferes with safe and healthy environments in the world of work. Violence and harassment is still a sensitive issue in the workplace, however, governments must strive to ensure the implementation of mechanisms that allow the implementation of safe and equitable working spaces.

The inclusion of a multilateral dialogue and the participation of different voices will allow the standardization of labour regulations to remain valid in different latitudes. This is reflected through a democratic and inclusive process that allows interpreting and transcending practices rooted in specific cultural, social and economic contexts. The Convention 190 is the first step to walk towards the implementation of peaceful practices in the workplace, and the standardization of human rights and decent work. This comprehensive text which binds states to regulate accordingly, sticks tightly to the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs, which help not only achieve the goals of the Convention but also to give visibility to the challenges our society faces. In this regard, the Convention helps to overcome those challenges in a more harmonized legislation, thus helping actors in today's globalized society.

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## Appendix

# **International Labour Conference Conférence internationale du Travail**

## **CONVENTION 190**

CONVENTION  
CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AND  
HARASSMENT IN THE WORLD OF WORK, ADOPTED BY  
THE CONFERENCE AT ITS ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH  
SESSION, GENEVA, 21 JUNE 2019

## **CONVENTION 190**

CONVENTION  
CONCERNANT L'ÉLIMINATION DE LA VIOLENCE ET DU  
HARCÈLEMENT DANS LE MONDE DU TRAVAIL, ADOPTÉE  
PAR LA CONFÉRENCE  
À SA CENT HUITIÈME SESSION,  
GENÈVE, 21 JUIN 2019

**Convention 190**

**CONVENTION  
CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE  
AND HARASSMENT IN THE WORLD OF WORK**

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its 108th (Centenary) Session on 10 June 2019, and

Recalling that the Declaration of Philadelphia affirms that all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity, and

Reaffirming the relevance of the fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization, and

Recalling other relevant international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and

Recognizing the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment, and

Recognizing that violence and harassment in the world of work can constitute a human rights violation or abuse, and that violence and harassment is a threat to equal opportunities, is unacceptable and incompatible with decent work, and

Recognizing the importance of a work culture based on mutual respect and dignity of the human being to prevent violence and harassment, and

Recalling that Members have an important responsibility to promote a general environment of zero tolerance to violence and harassment in order to facilitate the prevention of such behaviours and practices, and that all actors in the world of work must refrain from, prevent and address violence and harassment, and

Acknowledging that violence and harassment in the world of work affects a person's psychological, physical and sexual health, dignity, and family and social environment, and

**CONVENTION  
CONCERNANT L'ÉLIMINATION DE LA VIOLENCE  
ET DU HARCÈLEMENT DANS LE MONDE DU TRAVAIL**

La Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail,

Convoquée à Genève par le Conseil d'administration du Bureau international du Travail, et s'y étant réunie le 10 juin 2019, en sa cent huitième session (session du centenaire);

Rappelant que la Déclaration de Philadelphie affirme que tous les êtres humains, quels que soient leur race, leur croyance ou leur sexe, ont le droit de poursuivre leur progrès matériel et leur développement spirituel dans la liberté et la dignité, dans la sécurité économique et avec des chances égales;

Réaffirmant la pertinence des conventions fondamentales de l'Organisation internationale du Travail;

Rappelant d'autres instruments internationaux pertinents tels que la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, le Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques, le Pacte international relatif aux droits économiques, sociaux et culturels, la Convention internationale sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination raciale, la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes, la Convention internationale sur la protection des droits de tous les travailleurs migrants et des membres de leur famille et la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées;

Reconnaissant le droit de toute personne à un monde du travail exempt de violence et de harcèlement, y compris de violence et de harcèlement fondés sur le genre;

Reconnaissant que la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail peuvent constituer une violation des droits humains ou une atteinte à ces droits, et que la violence et le harcèlement mettent en péril l'égalité des chances et sont inacceptables et incompatibles avec le travail décent;

Reconnaissant l'importance d'une culture du travail fondée sur le respect mutuel et la dignité de l'être humain aux fins de la prévention de la violence et du harcèlement;

Rappelant que les Membres ont l'importante responsabilité de promouvoir un environnement général de tolérance zéro à l'égard de la violence et du harcèlement pour faciliter la prévention de tels comportements et pratiques, et que tous les acteurs du monde du travail doivent s'abstenir de recourir à la violence et au harcèlement, les prévenir et les combattre;

Reconnaissant que la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail nuisent à la santé psychologique, physique et sexuelle, à la dignité et à l'environnement familial et social de la personne;

Recognizing that violence and harassment also affects the quality of public and private services, and may prevent persons, particularly women, from accessing, and remaining and advancing in the labour market, and

Noting that violence and harassment is incompatible with the promotion of sustainable enterprises and impacts negatively on the organization of work, workplace relations, worker engagement, enterprise reputation, and productivity, and

Acknowledging that gender-based violence and harassment disproportionately affects women and girls, and recognizing that an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach, which tackles underlying causes and risk factors, including gender stereotypes, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and unequal gender-based power relations, is essential to ending violence and harassment in the world of work, and

Noting that domestic violence can affect employment, productivity and health and safety, and that governments, employers' and workers' organizations and labour market institutions can help, as part of other measures, to recognize, respond to and address the impacts of domestic violence, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals concerning violence and harassment in the world of work, which is the fifth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention,

adopts this twenty-first day of June of the year two thousand and nineteen the following Convention, which may be cited as the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019:

## I. Definitions

### *Article 1*

1. For the purposes of this Convention:

- (a) the term "violence and harassment" in the world of work refers to a range of unacceptable behaviours and practices, or threats thereof, whether a single occurrence or repeated, that aim at, result in, or are likely to result in physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm, and includes gender-based violence and harassment;
- (b) the term "gender-based violence and harassment" means violence and harassment directed at persons because of their sex or gender, or affecting persons of a particular sex or gender disproportionately, and includes sexual harassment.



Reconnaissant que la violence et le harcèlement nuisent aussi à la qualité des services publics et des services privés et peuvent empêcher des personnes, en particulier les femmes, d'entrer, de rester et de progresser sur le marché du travail;

Notant que la violence et le harcèlement sont incompatibles avec la promotion d'entreprises durables et ont un impact négatif sur l'Organisation du travail, les relations sur le lieu de travail, la motivation des travailleurs, la réputation de l'entreprise et la productivité;

Reconnaissant que la violence et le harcèlement fondés sur le genre touchent de manière disproportionnée les femmes et les filles, et reconnaissant également qu'une approche inclusive, intégrée et tenant compte des considérations de genre, qui s'attaque aux causes sous-jacentes et aux facteurs de risque, y compris aux stéréotypes de genre, aux formes multiples et intersectionnelles de discrimination et aux rapports de pouvoir inégaux fondés sur le genre, est essentielle pour mettre fin à la violence et au harcèlement dans le monde du travail;

Notant que la violence domestique peut se répercuter sur l'emploi, la productivité ainsi que sur la santé et la sécurité, et que les gouvernements, les Organisations d'employeurs et de travailleurs et les institutions du marché du travail peuvent contribuer, dans le cadre d'autres mesures, à faire reconnaître les répercussions de la violence domestique, à y répondre et à y remédier;

Après avoir décidé d'adopter diverses propositions concernant la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail, question qui constitue le cinquième point à l'ordre du jour de la session;

Après avoir décidé que ces propositions prendraient la forme d'une convention internationale,

adopte, ce vingt et unième jour de juin deux mille dix-neuf, la convention ci-après, qui sera dénommée Convention sur la violence et le harcèlement, 2019:

## I. Définitions

### *Article 1*

1. Aux fins de la présente convention:

- a) l'expression «violence et harcèlement» dans le monde du travail s'entend d'un ensemble de comportements et de pratiques inacceptables, ou de menaces de tels comportements et pratiques, qu'ils se produisent à une seule occasion ou de manière répétée, qui ont pour but de causer, causent ou sont susceptibles de causer un dommage d'ordre physique, psychologique, sexuel ou économique, et comprend la violence et le harcèlement fondés sur le genre;
- b) l'expression «violence et harcèlement fondés sur le genre» s'entend de la violence et du harcèlement visant une personne en raison de son sexe ou de son genre ou ayant un effet disproportionné sur les personnes d'un sexe ou d'un genre donné, et comprend le harcèlement sexuel.

2. Without prejudice to subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 of this Article, definitions in national laws and regulations may provide for a single concept or separate concepts.

## II. Scope

### *Article 2*

1. This Convention protects workers and other persons in the world of work, including employees as defined by national law and practice, as well as persons working irrespective of their contractual status, persons in training, including interns and apprentices, workers whose employment has been terminated, volunteers, jobseekers and job applicants, and individuals exercising the authority, duties or responsibilities of an employer.

2. This Convention applies to all sectors, whether private or public, both in the formal and informal economy, and whether in urban or rural areas.

### *Article 3*

This Convention applies to violence and harassment in the world of work occurring in the course of, linked with or arising out of work:

- (a) in the workplace, including public and private spaces where they are a place of work;
- (b) in places where the worker is paid, takes a rest break or a meal, or uses sanitary, washing and changing facilities;
- (c) during work-related trips, travel, training, events or social activities;
- (d) through work-related communications, including those enabled by information and communication technologies;
- (e) in employer-provided accommodation; and
- (f) when commuting to and from work.

## III. Core principles

### *Article 4*

1. Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall respect, promote and realize the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment.

2. Each Member shall adopt, in accordance with national law and circumstances and in consultation with representative employers' and workers' organizations, an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach for the prevention and elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. Such an approach should take into account violence and harassment involving third parties, where applicable, and includes:

- (a) prohibiting in law violence and harassment;

2. Sans préjudice des dispositions des alinéas *a)* et *b)* du paragraphe 1 du présent article, les définitions figurant dans la législation nationale peuvent énoncer un concept unique ou des concepts distincts.

## II. Champ d'application

### *Article 2*

1. La présente convention protège les travailleurs et autres personnes dans le monde du travail, y compris les salariés tels que définis par la législation et la pratique nationales, ainsi que les personnes qui travaillent, quel que soit leur statut contractuel, les personnes en formation, y compris les stagiaires et les apprentis, les travailleurs licenciés, les personnes bénévoles, les personnes à la recherche d'un emploi, les candidats à un emploi et les individus exerçant l'autorité, les fonctions ou les responsabilités d'un employeur.

2. La présente convention s'applique à tous les secteurs, public ou privé, dans l'économie formelle ou informelle, en zone urbaine ou rurale.

### *Article 3*

La présente convention s'applique à la violence et au harcèlement dans le monde du travail s'exerçant à l'occasion, en lien avec ou du fait du travail:

- a)* sur le lieu de travail, y compris les espaces publics et les espaces privés lorsqu'ils servent de lieu de travail;
- b)* sur les lieux où le travailleur est payé, prend ses pauses ou ses repas ou utilise des installations sanitaires, des salles d'eau ou des vestiaires;
- c)* à l'occasion de déplacements, de voyages, de formations, d'événements ou d'activités sociales liés au travail;
- d)* dans le cadre de communications liées au travail, y compris celles effectuées au moyen de technologies de l'information et de la communication;
- e)* dans le logement fourni par l'employeur;
- f)* pendant les trajets entre le domicile et le lieu de travail.

## III. Principes fondamentaux

### *Article 4*

1. Tout Membre qui ratifie la présente convention doit respecter, promouvoir et réaliser le droit de toute personne à un monde du travail exempt de violence et de harcèlement.

2. Tout Membre doit adopter, conformément à la législation et à la situation nationales et en consultation avec les Organisations représentatives d'employeurs et de travailleurs, une approche inclusive, intégrée et tenant compte des considérations de genre, qui vise à prévenir et à éliminer la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail. Cette approche devrait prendre en compte la violence et le harcèlement impliquant des tiers, le cas échéant, et consiste notamment à:

- a)* interdire en droit la violence et le harcèlement;

- (b) ensuring that relevant policies address violence and harassment;
- (c) adopting a comprehensive strategy in order to implement measures to prevent and combat violence and harassment;
- (d) establishing or strengthening enforcement and monitoring mechanisms;
- (e) ensuring access to remedies and support for victims;
- (f) providing for sanctions;
- (g) developing tools, guidance, education and training, and raising awareness, in accessible formats as appropriate; and
- (h) ensuring effective means of inspection and investigation of cases of violence and harassment, including through labour inspectorates or other competent bodies.

3. In adopting and implementing the approach referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, each Member shall recognize the different and complementary roles and functions of governments, and employers and workers and their respective organizations, taking into account the varying nature and extent of their respective responsibilities.

#### *Article 5*

With a view to preventing and eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work, each Member shall respect, promote and realize the fundamental principles and rights at work, namely freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, as well as promote decent work.

#### *Article 6*

Each Member shall adopt laws, regulations and policies ensuring the right to equality and non-discrimination in employment and occupation, including for women workers, as well as for workers and other persons belonging to one or more vulnerable groups or groups in situations of vulnerability that are disproportionately affected by violence and harassment in the world of work.

### IV. Protection and prevention

#### *Article 7*

Without prejudice to and consistent with Article 1, each Member shall adopt laws and regulations to define and prohibit violence and harassment in the world of work, including gender-based violence and harassment.

- b) garantir que des politiques pertinentes traitent de la violence et du harcèlement;
- c) adopter une stratégie globale afin de mettre en œuvre des mesures pour prévenir et combattre la violence et le harcèlement;
- d) établir des mécanismes de contrôle de l'application et de suivi ou renforcer les mécanismes existants;
- e) garantir l'accès à des moyens de recours et de réparation ainsi qu'à un soutien pour les victimes;
- f) prévoir des sanctions;
- g) élaborer des outils, des orientations et des activités d'éducation et de formation et sensibiliser, sous des formes accessibles selon le cas;
- h) garantir l'existence de moyens d'inspection et d'enquête efficaces pour les cas de violence et de harcèlement, y compris par le biais de l'inspection du travail ou d'autres organismes compétents.

3. Lorsqu'il adopte et met en œuvre l'approche visée au paragraphe 2 du présent article, tout Membre doit reconnaître les fonctions et rôles différents et complémentaires des gouvernements, et des employeurs et travailleurs et de leurs Organisations respectives, en tenant compte de la nature et de l'étendue variables de leurs responsabilités respectives.

#### *Article 5*

En vue de prévenir et d'éliminer la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail, tout Membre doit respecter, promouvoir et réaliser les principes et droits fondamentaux au travail, à savoir la liberté d'association et la reconnaissance effective du droit de négociation collective, l'élimination de toute forme de travail forcé ou obligatoire, l'abolition effective du travail des enfants et l'élimination de la discrimination en matière d'emploi et de profession, et aussi promouvoir le travail décent.

#### *Article 6*

Tout Membre doit adopter une législation et des politiques garantissant le droit à l'égalité et à la non-discrimination dans l'emploi et la profession, notamment aux travailleuses, ainsi qu'aux travailleurs et autres personnes appartenant à un ou plusieurs groupes vulnérables ou groupes en situation de vulnérabilité qui sont touchés de manière disproportionnée par la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail.

### IV. Protection et prévention

#### *Article 7*

Sans préjudice des dispositions de l'article 1 et conformément à celles-ci, tout Membre doit adopter une législation définissant et interdisant la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail, y compris la violence et le harcèlement fondés sur le genre.

### *Article 8*

Each Member shall take appropriate measures to prevent violence and harassment in the world of work, including:

- (a) recognizing the important role of public authorities in the case of informal economy workers;
- (b) identifying, in consultation with the employers' and workers' organizations concerned and through other means, the sectors or occupations and work arrangements in which workers and other persons concerned are more exposed to violence and harassment; and
- (c) taking measures to effectively protect such persons.

### *Article 9*

Each Member shall adopt laws and regulations requiring employers to take appropriate steps commensurate with their degree of control to prevent violence and harassment in the world of work, including gender-based violence and harassment, and in particular, so far as is reasonably practicable, to:

- (a) adopt and implement, in consultation with workers and their representatives, a workplace policy on violence and harassment;
- (b) take into account violence and harassment and associated psychosocial risks in the management of occupational safety and health;
- (c) identify hazards and assess the risks of violence and harassment, with the participation of workers and their representatives, and take measures to prevent and control them; and
- (d) provide to workers and other persons concerned information and training, in accessible formats as appropriate, on the identified hazards and risks of violence and harassment and the associated prevention and protection measures, including on the rights and responsibilities of workers and other persons concerned in relation to the policy referred to in subparagraph (a) of this Article.

## V. Enforcement and remedies

### *Article 10*

Each Member shall take appropriate measures to:

- (a) monitor and enforce national laws and regulations regarding violence and harassment in the world of work;
- (b) ensure easy access to appropriate and effective remedies and safe, fair and effective reporting and dispute resolution mechanisms and procedures in cases of violence and harassment in the world of work, such as:

### *Article 8*

Tout Membre doit prendre des mesures appropriées pour prévenir la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail, notamment:

- a) reconnaître le rôle important des pouvoirs publics en ce qui concerne les travailleurs de l'économie informelle;
- b) identifier, en consultation avec les Organisations d'employeurs et de travailleurs concernées et par d'autres moyens, les secteurs ou professions et les modalités de travail qui exposent davantage les travailleurs et autres personnes concernées à la violence et au harcèlement;
- c) prendre des mesures pour protéger ces personnes de manière efficace.

### *Article 9*

Tout Membre doit adopter une législation prescrivant aux employeurs de prendre des mesures appropriées correspondant à leur degré de contrôle pour prévenir la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail, y compris la violence et le harcèlement fondés sur le genre, et en particulier, dans la mesure où cela est raisonnable et pratiquement réalisable:

- a) d'adopter et de mettre en œuvre, en consultation avec les travailleurs et leurs représentants, une politique du lieu de travail relative à la violence et au harcèlement;
- b) de tenir compte de la violence et du harcèlement, et des risques psychosociaux qui y sont associés, dans la gestion de la sécurité et de la santé au travail;
- c) d'identifier les dangers et d'évaluer les risques de violence et de harcèlement, en y associant les travailleurs et leurs représentants, et de prendre des mesures destinées à prévenir et à maîtriser ces dangers et ces risques;
- d) de fournir aux travailleurs et autres personnes concernées, sous des formes accessibles selon le cas, des informations et une formation sur les dangers et les risques de violence et de harcèlement identifiés et sur les mesures de prévention et de protection correspondantes, y compris sur les droits et responsabilités des travailleurs et autres personnes concernées en lien avec la politique visée à l'alinéa a) du présent article.

## V. Contrôle de l'application et moyens de recours et de réparation

### *Article 10*

Tout Membre doit prendre des mesures appropriées pour:

- a) suivre et faire appliquer la législation nationale relative à la violence et au harcèlement dans le monde du travail;
- b) garantir un accès aisé à des moyens de recours et de réparation appropriés et efficaces ainsi qu'à des mécanismes et procédures de signalement et de règlement des différends en matière de violence et de harcèlement dans le monde du travail, qui soient sûrs, équitables et efficaces, tels que:

- (i) complaint and investigation procedures, as well as, where appropriate, dispute resolution mechanisms at the workplace level;
- (ii) dispute resolution mechanisms external to the workplace;
- (iii) courts or tribunals;
- (iv) protection against victimization of or retaliation against complainants, victims, witnesses and whistle-blowers; and
- (v) legal, social, medical and administrative support measures for complainants and victims;
- (c) protect the privacy of those individuals involved and confidentiality, to the extent possible and as appropriate, and ensure that requirements for privacy and confidentiality are not misused;
- (d) provide for sanctions, where appropriate, in cases of violence and harassment in the world of work;
- (e) provide that victims of gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work have effective access to gender-responsive, safe and effective complaint and dispute resolution mechanisms, support, services and remedies;
- (f) recognize the effects of domestic violence and, so far as is reasonably practicable, mitigate its impact in the world of work;
- (g) ensure that workers have the right to remove themselves from a work situation which they have reasonable justification to believe presents an imminent and serious danger to life, health or safety due to violence and harassment, without suffering retaliation or other undue consequences, and the duty to inform management; and
- (h) ensure that labour inspectorates and other relevant authorities, as appropriate, are empowered to deal with violence and harassment in the world of work, including by issuing orders requiring measures with immediate executory force, and orders to stop work in cases of an imminent danger to life, health or safety, subject to any right of appeal to a judicial or administrative authority which may be provided by law.

## VI. Guidance, training and awareness-raising

### *Article 11*

Each Member, in consultation with representative employers' and workers' organizations, shall seek to ensure that:

- (a) violence and harassment in the world of work is addressed in relevant national policies, such as those concerning occupational safety and health, equality and non-discrimination, and migration;
- (b) employers and workers and their organizations, and relevant authorities, are provided with guidance, resources, training or other tools, in

- i) des procédures de plainte et d'enquête et, s'il y a lieu, des mécanismes de règlement des différends au niveau du lieu de travail;
  - ii) des mécanismes de règlement des différends extérieurs au lieu de travail;
  - iii) des tribunaux et autres juridictions;
  - iv) des mesures de protection des plaignants, des victimes, des témoins et des lanceurs d'alerte contre la victimisation et les représailles;
  - v) des mesures d'assistance juridique, sociale, médicale ou administrative pour les plaignants et les victimes;
- c) protéger la vie privée des personnes concernées et la confidentialité, dans la mesure du possible et selon qu'il convient, et veiller à ce que les exigences en la matière ne soient pas appliquées abusivement;
  - d) prévoir des sanctions, s'il y a lieu, en cas de violence et de harcèlement dans le monde du travail;
  - e) prévoir que les victimes de violence et de harcèlement fondés sur le genre dans le monde du travail auront effectivement accès à des mécanismes de plainte et de règlement des différends, à un soutien, à des services et à des moyens de recours et de réparation tenant compte des considérations de genre, sûrs et efficaces;
  - f) reconnaître les effets de la violence domestique et, dans la mesure où cela est raisonnable et pratiquement réalisable, atténuer son impact dans le monde du travail;
  - g) garantir que tout travailleur a le droit de se retirer d'une situation de travail dont il a des motifs raisonnables de penser qu'elle présente un danger imminent et grave pour sa vie, sa santé ou sa sécurité, en raison de violence et de harcèlement, sans subir de représailles ni autres conséquences indues, et le devoir d'en informer la direction;
  - h) veiller à ce que l'inspection du travail et d'autres autorités compétentes, le cas échéant, soient habilitées à traiter la question de la violence et du harcèlement dans le monde du travail, notamment en ordonnant des mesures immédiatement exécutoires ou l'arrêt du travail lorsqu'il existe un danger imminent pour la vie, la santé ou la sécurité, sous réserve de tout droit de recours judiciaire ou administratif qui pourrait être prévu par la législation.

## VI. Orientations, formation et sensibilisation

### *Article 11*

Tout Membre doit, en consultation avec les Organisations représentatives d'employeurs et de travailleurs, s'efforcer de garantir que:

- a) la question de la violence et du harcèlement dans le monde du travail est traitée dans les politiques nationales pertinentes, comme celles relatives à la sécurité et à la santé au travail, à l'égalité et à la non-discrimination et aux migrations;
- b) des orientations, des ressources, des formations ou d'autres outils concernant la violence et le harcèlement dans le monde du travail, y

accessible formats as appropriate, on violence and harassment in the world of work, including on gender-based violence and harassment; and

- (c) initiatives, including awareness-raising campaigns, are undertaken.

## VII. Methods of application

### *Article 12*

The provisions of this Convention shall be applied by means of national laws and regulations, as well as through collective agreements or other measures consistent with national practice, including by extending or adapting existing occupational safety and health measures to cover violence and harassment and developing specific measures where necessary.

## VIII. Final provisions

### *Article 13*

The formal ratifications of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

### *Article 14*

1. This Convention shall be binding only upon those Members of the International Labour Organization whose ratifications have been registered with the Director-General of the International Labour Office.

2. It shall come into force twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two Members have been registered with the Director-General.

3. Thereafter, this Convention shall come into force for any Member twelve months after the date on which its ratification is registered.

### *Article 15*

1. A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered.

2. Each Member which has ratified this Convention and which does not, within the year following the expiration of the period of ten years mentioned in the preceding paragraph, exercise the right of denunciation provided for in this Article, will be bound for another period of ten years and, thereafter, may denounce this Convention within the first year of each new period of ten years under the terms provided for in this Article.

compris la violence et le harcèlement fondés sur le genre, sont mis à la disposition des employeurs et des travailleurs et de leurs Organisations ainsi que des autorités compétentes, sous des formes accessibles selon le cas;

- c) des initiatives sont prises en la matière, notamment des campagnes de sensibilisation.

## VII. Méthodes d'application

### *Article 12*

Les dispositions de la présente convention doivent être appliquées par voie de législation nationale ainsi que par des conventions collectives ou d'autres mesures conformes à la pratique nationale, y compris en étendant, ou en adaptant, les mesures existantes de sécurité et de santé au travail à la question de la violence et du harcèlement et en élaborant des mesures spécifiques si nécessaire.

## VIII. Dispositions finales

### *Article 13*

Les ratifications formelles de la présente convention sont communiquées au Directeur général du Bureau international du Travail aux fins d'enregistrement.

### *Article 14*

1. La présente convention ne lie que les Membres de l'Organisation internationale du Travail dont la ratification a été enregistrée par le Directeur général du Bureau international du Travail.

2. Elle entre en vigueur douze mois après que les ratifications de deux Membres ont été enregistrées par le Directeur général.

3. Par la suite, cette convention entre en vigueur pour chaque Membre douze mois après la date de l'enregistrement de sa ratification.

### *Article 15*

1. Tout Membre ayant ratifié la présente convention peut la dénoncer à l'expiration d'une période de dix années après la date de la mise en vigueur initiale de la convention, par un acte communiqué au Directeur général du Bureau international du Travail aux fins d'enregistrement. La dénonciation prend effet une année après avoir été enregistrée.

2. Tout Membre ayant ratifié la présente convention qui, dans l'année après l'expiration de la période de dix années mentionnée au paragraphe précédent, ne se prévaut pas de la faculté de dénonciation prévue par le présent article sera lié pour une nouvelle période de dix années et, par la suite, pourra dénoncer la présente convention dans la première année de chaque nouvelle période de dix années dans les conditions prévues au présent article.

### *Article 16*

1. The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall notify all Members of the International Labour Organization of the registration of all ratifications and denunciations that have been communicated by the Members of the Organization.

2. When notifying the Members of the Organization of the registration of the second ratification that has been communicated, the Director-General shall draw the attention of the Members of the Organization to the date upon which the Convention will come into force.

### *Article 17*

The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations full particulars of all ratifications and denunciations that have been registered in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Articles.

### *Article 18*

At such times as it may consider necessary, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention and shall examine the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision in whole or in part.

### *Article 19*

1. Should the Conference adopt a new Convention revising this Convention, then, unless the new Convention otherwise provides:

- (a) the ratification by a Member of the new revising Convention shall *ipso jure* involve the immediate denunciation of this Convention, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 15 above, if and when the new revising Convention shall have come into force;
- (b) as from the date when the new revising Convention comes into force, this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification by the Members.

2. This Convention shall in any case remain in force in its actual form and content for those Members which have ratified it but have not ratified the revising Convention.

### *Article 20*

The English and French versions of the text of this Convention are equally authoritative.

### *Article 16*

1. Le Directeur général du Bureau international du Travail notifie à tous les Membres de l'Organisation internationale du Travail l'enregistrement de toutes les ratifications et dénonciations qui lui sont communiquées par les Membres de l'Organisation.

2. En notifiant aux Membres de l'Organisation l'enregistrement de la deuxième ratification communiquée, le Directeur général appelle l'attention des Membres de l'Organisation sur la date à laquelle la présente convention entrera en vigueur.

### *Article 17*

Le Directeur général du Bureau international du Travail communique au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, aux fins d'enregistrement, conformément à l'article 102 de la Charte des Nations Unies, des renseignements complets au sujet de toutes ratifications et dénonciations enregistrées conformément aux articles précédents.

### *Article 18*

Chaque fois qu'il le juge nécessaire, le Conseil d'administration du Bureau international du Travail présente à la Conférence générale un rapport sur l'application de la présente convention et examine s'il y a lieu d'inscrire à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence la question de sa révision totale ou partielle.

### *Article 19*

1. Au cas où la Conférence adopte une nouvelle convention portant révision de la présente convention, et à moins que la nouvelle convention n'en dispose autrement:

- a) la ratification par un Membre de la nouvelle convention portant révision entraîne de plein droit, nonobstant l'article 15 ci-dessus, la dénonciation immédiate de la présente convention, sous réserve que la nouvelle convention portant révision soit entrée en vigueur;
- b) à partir de la date de l'entrée en vigueur de la nouvelle convention portant révision, la présente convention cesse d'être ouverte à la ratification des Membres.

2. La présente convention demeure en tout cas en vigueur dans sa forme et teneur pour les Membres qui l'auraient ratifiée et qui ne ratifieraient pas la convention portant révision.

### *Article 20*

Les versions française et anglaise du texte de la présente convention font également foi.

The foregoing is the authentic text of the Convention duly adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization during its One hundred and eighth Session which was held at Geneva and declared closed the twenty-first day of June 2019.

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures this day of June  
2019:

Le texte qui précède est le texte authentique de la convention dûment adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'Organisation internationale du Travail dans sa cent huitième session qui s'est tenue à Genève et qui a été déclarée close le vingt et unième jour de juin 2019.

EN FOI DE QUOI ont apposé leurs signatures, ce jour de juin 2019:

*The President of the Conference,  
Le Président de la Conférence,*

*The Director-General of the International Labour Office, Le  
Directeur général du Bureau international du Travail*

# 57<sup>th</sup> Graduate Study Programme

“LOOKING BACK AT 100 YEARS OF MULTILATERALISM: TAKING STOCK AND PREPARING THE FUTURE”



United Nations



## Multilateralism in the IFRC Humanitarian Interventions - The Case of Mozambique -

INTERNATIONAL



FEDERATION

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Facts about the Cyclones Idai and Kenneth**

This spring, Mozambique was hit by two strong tropical cyclones: Cyclone Idai (between 14 March and 15 March) and Kenneth (21 April – 29 April). They caused severe floods and damages in the country, and nearly a thousand deaths. The damages caused are expected to be worth more than USD 100 million. Cyclone Idai made landfall on 15 March in the city of Beira located in Central Mozambique and affected 1.5 million people. The cyclone wreaked havoc on Beira and its surrounding areas, resulting in significant damages to shelter and settlements, health, water and sanitation facilities, as well as large swathes of crops<sup>1</sup>.

It caused more than 700 deaths, and damaged more than 200,000 homes. Eight hospitals and 938 classrooms were destroyed. The floods washed away bridges and roads, and blew up the protective dams. The damage to the hydroelectric power plants deprived Mozambique of three-quarters of its energy supply. The cyclone caused a landslide in Madagascar, and a storm surge of 4.4 m high that swept the coast. The winds ripped the roofs of houses in which inhabitants took refuge in case of flood. Then, the rivers swollen with rain overflowed. It was shortly after that Mozambique was hit by a stronger cyclone named Kenneth<sup>2</sup>. It is believed that over 483,000 people were displaced<sup>3</sup>.

According to the Mozambican Disaster Management Institute, cyclone Kenneth has caused over 38 deaths and 39 wounded victims. The cyclone destroyed nearly 35,000 homes and more than 160,000 people were affected by it. More than 1,000 people were obliged to leave their place of residency after the cyclone<sup>4</sup>. About 700,000 people are believed to be at risk in northern Mozambique today as torrential rains continue to fall<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://media.theifrc.org/theifrc/document/emergency-appeal-mozambique-cyclone-idai/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/fr/medias/communiqu%C3%A9s-de-presse/pour-1%E2%80%99omm-les-cyclones-du-mozambique-sont-des-avertissements>

<sup>3</sup> <https://media.theifrc.org/theifrc/appeal/mozambique-cyclone-idai/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/afrique/region-48091231>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/afrique/region-48091231>

## Causes

The close formation of two cyclones is an unprecedented event for Mozambique. However, the cyclones are attributed to two main causes, which are climate change and hurricane. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), these two storms are announcing the increase in the number of tropical cyclones, coastal floods and intense, high impact rainfall related to climate change<sup>6</sup>. In the other hand, hurricanes are formed when the temperature of the ocean's water exceeds 26 °C. Experts have predicted that they could appear more easily because of global warming. Recently, they have been able to show that the number of the strongest and most destructive storms has already tripled in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The atmospheric humidity also favored the formation of great hurricanes<sup>7</sup>.

## Amount of money needed for recovery

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the IFRC) launched an Emergency Appeal for CHF 32 million to support the Mozambique Red Cross (RCRC) to provide 200,000 people with emergency assistance following Cyclone Idai over the next 24 months<sup>8</sup>. Over USD 18 million of the required amount has been received up until now<sup>9</sup>.

## Deployed National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement responded to the effects of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, which included a Cholera outbreak. Various actors took part in this complex response operation. In order to bring quick relief and a best response to the natural disaster, 8 official RCRC branches were deployed and worked together. The national societies that were deployed are: RCRC in Spain, Canada, Denmark, the US, the UK, Switzerland and Italy<sup>10</sup>. All delegation had the obligation of reporting to the Secretary General of the Head of Mission of the Mozambican RCRC, Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique. Their motto was: « *one response, one team* »

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<sup>6</sup> <https://blogs.letemps.ch/dorota-retelska/2019/06/09/les-cyclones-du-mozambique-sont-un-avertissement/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://blogs.letemps.ch/dorota-retelska/2019/06/09/les-cyclones-du-mozambique-sont-un-avertissement/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://media.theifrc.org/theifrc/press-release/cyclone-kenneth-first-reports-northern-mozambique/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://go.theifrc.org/emergencies/3469>

<sup>10</sup> <https://go.theifrc.org/emergencies/3469>

The Portuguese Red Cross sent, by air and sea, more than 150 tons of donations in kind, and also in rebuilding the health center and maternity facility in Macurungo/Beira. However, the Portuguese Red Cross involved itself in the relief without being solicited by the International Federation of the RCRC Movement<sup>11</sup>.

### **Aim of the Report**

The RCRC movement's intervention has been praised as extraordinary coordination and cooperation of the rapid response in Mozambique's cyclone disasters. The aim of this report is to first evaluate whether this intervention was effective and how it is possible to make further preventions and improvements for future interventions. The second aim is to analyse if the response given was the best possible under the given circumstances and what made it particular compared to others in terms of multilateralism. In order to give a complete answer to the given questions, the report will be presented in three segments:

The first segment will shed light on the prevention measures by the government and the RCRC. The second segment examines why the operation went well and failed in some areas in terms of multilateralism. The third segment contemplates the recommendations and improvements of responses such as this one for future natural disasters. The last aim of this report is to give recommendations in order to be able to manage better disasters like the ones that happened in Mozambique. The given recommendations concern the preventive phase (before the disaster happens) and the emergency phase (once the disaster occurs).

### **PRE-DISASTER**

According to a report presented by the World Meteorological Organization, Idai cyclone started forming on 4 March, near the province of Zambézia in Mozambique. However, International Authorities were unable to predict where it was headed until 6 March, when the European Ensemble Forecast alerted on a mature tropical cyclone that would strike central Mozambique. The confirmation of the predictions came on 9 March, with another alert, this time disseminated among international organizations, International Federation of the Red Cross and National Society in Mozambique (Cruz Vermelha de Moçambique – also known as CVM). The preparedness for the imminent disaster started right away. CVM had the preparation underway, a plan of action was established by THE IFRC, and both of them

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<sup>11</sup> <https://clubofmozambique.com/news/mozambique-portuguese-red-cross-campaign-raises-e2-48m-for-cyclone-idai-victims-135397/>

coordinated along NGOs and the World Food Program (WFP) that were already operating in the country.

Conversely, the lack of an THE IFRC structure *in loco* slowed the presence of a rapid response. According to Victoria Stodart, one of the representatives of the review team on Red Cross intervention on Mozambique's disaster, this was a main issue to preparedness. The necessity to have a protocol signed in order to allow certain activities to be carried out caused an important delay on taking proper actions, which would not happen if the organization was already established there. Even though the the IFRC provided the documents as quickly as possible and the three clusters were already in position, governmental bureaucracy did not permit the on the ground teams to intervene. This lateness had direct consequences on the pre-disaster operations. Moreover, the the IFRC was unable to send money to CVM due to lack of structure in Mozambique. Also, seen that it is not possible to know exactly what is going to happen, estimating the funds was an issue, because the Red Cross team could not estimate the calamity.

The red alert was sent just two days before the cyclone stroke, on 13 March. This represented another problem: poor communication. WMO's report highlights some of the problems of the pre-course action. The Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INAM) did not have proper ways to inform the population because of terminology (it used terms as '50 millimeters of rain' and '150 km/h about the wind conditions). In addition, they did not have suitable code for events of such magnitude nor advanced warning systems. Another problem is the fact that there wasn't a meteorological presenter on TV sponsored by INAM, on top of that, they didn't use correctly the equipment that would give a clearer aspect of the situation. Moreover, INAM in Maputo had only 20 forecasters at the time of the disaster and none of them were working during the night the cyclone stroke.

WMO's report also appeals to the lack of a solid efficient flood supply management, absence of evacuation plan for cities and limited structure and rescue capacity in the region. This was the responsibility of the government, as Victoria points out, and pledged places to shelter the displaced were far away from the people's origins. Despite the governmental and structural problems faced in the country, some factors of the pre-disaster were responsible for the success of the operation during emergency and recovery phases. Victoria adds that both German and Spanish National Societies were already in touch with CVM coordinating possible courses of action before the cyclone arrived. THE IFRC also managed to send a certain amount of money so that teams could prepare materials and emergency supplies on the

March 14<sup>th</sup>. The coordination before the disaster can be evaluated as good, despite all the problems the action faced. Stakeholders prepared as quickly as possible from the moment the local authorities gave the green light. For that matter, Red Cross teams gave a really good example of coordination.

## **EMERGENCY PHASE**

### **Coordination**

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC) intervention in Mozambique was one of the biggest post-natural disaster assistance undertakings that the IFRC coordinated. The immensity of the calamity fostered big challenges for the IFRC as they have never coordinated so many actors at such a big scale. As a result of the great multilateralism showcased by RCRC in Mozambique, the UK's Department of International Development (DFID), contributed for the first time as a donor to the RCRC humanitarian relief by providing them £6 million. It is imperative to recognize that the intervention had great success, taking into consideration the really large scale of the operation. This is the reason why the intervention framework, designed and applied, by the IFRC in the case of Mozambique will be followed in the future relief programs.

As mentioned in the last podcast, not having an the IFRC representation in the country was a real challenge. However, we would like to recognize the RCRC's intervention's efficiency, which showcased a high level of precision in prioritizing the most affected areas. In a relative short time, RCRC managed to put in place a strategic plan of relief without knowing the exact repercussions of the natural disaster. Even though Florent Del Pinto, Chief of the Mozambique's Operations, considers that they could have interfered much sooner, the lag time could not have been avoided as it was crucial for the teams to make sure that they were reaching the most affected places and save the most vulnerable people.

### **Actors**

Another reason that made the intervention successful was the great cooperation between the IFRC and the other actors present on the field. The organizations that were working in Mozambique with the RCRC were traditional ones, Medecins sans Frontières (MSF), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Program (WFP), or the United

Nations Children Fund (UNICEF). This led to an easy cooperation between the actors as they have been working together in the past. They have been tackling issues such as drought, Ebola and cholera. Each of them keeping their established roles within the IFRC's interventions frameworks; for example, the MSF and the WHO were responsible for medical treatment needed by the victims, while RCRC was dealing with the prevention part of the operation.

Other relevant actors that played a crucial role in the emergency response were the National Societies involved in the intervention. In this case, a great example of multilateralism can be observed among German, Spanish and Swiss Red Cross Societies which were really effective in working together because of previous cooperation. It is also important to highlight the fact that the number of actors involved in the field was not as high in comparison with other humanitarian missions led by the IFRC such as the one following the earthquake of Haiti in 2010. This factor made the cooperation much easier due to a smaller number of actors involved.

### **Strategy**

RCRC cooperation can take three forms: Multilateral, Bilateral and Unilateral. The Unilateral cooperation occurs when the National Societies interfere in international operations by sending teams or equipment on the field, without informing the IFRC. These situations occur very often and can interfere with the plan of action on the field in terms of time efficiency, budget, and often they become real bottlenecks in the overall procedure. In Mozambique's case, the Portuguese RC came unannounced with a plane full of doctors and equipment to create a mobile clinic. However, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (ECPM) sent the Portuguese RC assistance as a coordinated assistance on behalf of the European Union to the Mozambique natural disaster's aftermath. Florent Del Pinto explains that even if the intervention was not planned, the IFRC rapidly managed to integrate them into the overall plan of action. Moreover, the clinic created by the Portuguese RC became the official clinic of the RCRC volunteers and members.

In the case of Mozambique, the IFRC chose to create three additional clusters, with respect to the gravity and context of the disaster: gender protection and inclusion, livelihood and basic needs and disaster risk reduction. These came as additionally to the three traditional clusters of natural disaster relief: which are water sanitation and hygiene, health, and shelter.

Regarding tackling the spreading of Cholera, the response from the different international organizations and NGOs has been incredibly efficient. They created a very ambitious plan of vaccination that they managed to follow. They covered a very large geographic zone and managed to stop the spreading of the disease. That implies a very strong coordination with the organizations on the field but also, coordination with the local means of transport such as helicopters and buses, but also coordinating with military and firefighters that were deployed.

Securing food for the affected people is not a priority for the IFRC, even though it represents an issue in the country that they operate within. But in this situation food shortage played a crucial role in saving people's lives. As the cyclone hit in March, which coincides with the harvest window in Mozambique, left people with no food stock for the year to come. Therefore, the IFRC partnered up with the WFP in providing and distributing the food to the people affected. Moreover, within the recovery phase, the IFRC has been focusing mainly on rebuilding Mozambique's agricultural sector by providing the affected people with seeds and necessary tools. In addition to that, they also supported the repairs and replacement of fishermen' boats and provided fishing nets. Traditionally, certain clusters receive larger parts from overall budget than the others. Even though the IFRC decided to add three more clusters, the IFRC tried to split the budget as fairly as they could.

### **Facilities**

The coordination with aerial and road facilities was very efficient and allowed the different organizations to operate as resourcefully as they could in regarding accessing the devastated areas. The cooperation with military forces and firefighters was professional and had an important impact in the success of the operations.

## **LES FAIBLESSES DE LA COOPÉRATION MULTILATÉRALE DES DIFFÉRENTS ACTEURS FACE AUX CYCLONES IDAI ET KENETH QUI ONT EU LIEU AU MOZAMBIQUE**

Les cyclones Idai et Keneth qui ont secoué le Mozambique ont occasionné beaucoup dégâts matériels et humains décimant à plus de 90% la ville de Beira. Cette catastrophe a nécessité l'intervention de différents acteurs sur le terrain comme La Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge (FICR), certaines sociétés nationales de la croix rouge ainsi que de nombreuses ONG œuvrant dans le domaine

de la santé, de l'assistance humanitaire, etc. La logique de coopération de la FICR lors de l'intervention au Mozambique c'est joué à deux niveaux : le niveau bilatéral et multilatéral. Afin de mieux couvrir une catastrophe naturelle il est nécessaire de mettre en place une action collective pour venir au mieux en aide aux populations dépourvues. Les informations recueillies aussi bien au travers des rapports d'actions que des entretiens que nous avons pu réaliser, nous avons pu dégager les points forts et les points faibles de cette opération afin de proposer des recommandations pour les interventions futures. Nous nous intéressons dans notre travail à présenter les éléments identifiés comme les faiblesses de cette approche.

### **DIFFICILE COOPÉRATION AU SEIN DE LA FÉDÉRATION**

Cela s'explique par l'absence de mécanismes institutionnels pouvant contraindre les différents acteurs à mutualiser leurs compétences et actions pour donner une réponse collective. En effet, les sociétés nationales du croissant rouge Qatari et du croissant rouge Turc ont déployé leurs équipes sur le terrain sans toutefois informer la FICR. Cette pratique a conduit à faire des dons qui ne répondaient pas forcément aux besoins urgents des sinistrés.

### **CRITERES DE VULNERABILITE MAL DEFINIS:**

Face à cette catastrophe naturelle, la FICR n'a pas pu définir clairement en amont les critères de vulnérabilité. Ce qui a rendu difficile la réponse à cette question : quelles sont les communautés qui sont réellement touchées par la crise ? Comment aider les plus vulnérables ? Ainsi, il a été difficile d'éviter une aide discriminée.

### **L'ÉCHEC DE COORDINATION A BUSI**

La coordination dans la ville de Busi a été moins efficace que celle de Beira (centre des opérations). L'une des principales raisons de cela est le profil du coordinateur de la zone, ensuite, les acteurs présents sur le terrain et enfin les problèmes logistiques. Dans un premier temps, le coordinateur n'avait pas les compétences suffisantes pour manager ce qui explique le faible partage des informations entre les différentes organisations. Ensuite, les acteurs étaient moins engagés qu'à Beira. Enfin, les moyens et le manque de transport utilisés n'ont pas permis d'assister certaines communautés touchées par les cyclones.

## **ABSENCE DE BUREAU DE COORDINATION DE LA FICR AU MOZAMBIQUE**

L'absence d'un bureau de la FICR au Mozambique avant la catastrophe n'a pas facilité la bonne coordination des différents acteurs aussi bien dans le domaine de l'habitat, la santé que pour les biens de subsistance. Cela a eu un impact sur la mise en œuvre du plan d'action. Les différents clusters n'ont pas eu l'autorisation de démarrer leurs activités car la FICR n'avait pas encore de pieds à terre au Mozambique. Les fonds prévus pour ces clusters ont également été bloqués pour ces mêmes raisons.

## **PROBLEMES DE COMMUNICATION**

Il y a eu un problème de communication entre les acteurs de la Croix Rouge, les autres organisations et les populations locales. 90% de la population nationale parlent portugais et sur le terrain il s'est avéré que très peu d'acteurs maîtrisaient cette langue.

## **LA RESPONSABILITÉ DES ETATS**

La négligence de la situation par le gouvernement national n'a pas permis aux populations d'avoir des informations en temps opportun. Si le gouvernement avait donné une alerte rouge deux jours plus tôt, on aurait pu éviter les dégâts liés aux pertes de vies humaines et même la prolifération de certaines maladies comme le choléra.

## **LA NON PRIORISATION DE LA SÉCURITÉ ALIMENTAIRE**

La sécurité alimentaire ne faisant pas partie des priorités de la coopération car les sociétés nationales priorisent plutôt la reconstruction des logements, l'assainissement et la santé. Ainsi donc, la sécurité alimentaire a été revue plus tard lors des interventions suite à l'énorme destruction causée par les cyclones.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Pre-disaster recommendations**

- ❖ In order to reduce the loss of time created by bureaucracy, the IFRC should make the necessary adjustments to be able to open offices in specific zones that are most likely to be affected by natural disasters. In case of the impossibility to do so, agreements with local authorities shall be pursued.
  
- ❖ The RCRC, along with local authorities, are encouraged to find the most effective means of communication in order to alert the population about the disasters that are about to hit. For example, the radio is a commonly used mean of communication that can be used.
  
- ❖ The IFRC should provide training to the locals on natural disaster prevention
  
- ❖ Funding structures should be established before natural disasters occur so that transferring of money will be easier. (Although a protocol was signed to fund the initial pre-disaster interventions, no activities were launched due to the fact that money could not be accessed).
  
- ❖ The IFRC should start building and consolidating their relations with Governments in countries where they do not have a national representation. In the case of encountering difficulties in approaching Governments of countries that are vulnerable to natural disasters, the help of United Nations should be requested (in Mozambique's case, the recovery phase was not efficient because the government was not fully cooperating with the IFRC).
  
- ❖ In risk countries in which the IFRC does not have a national office, a plan of action for emergency intervention should be prepared.

### **Emergency phase recommendations**

- ❖ In a situation where there is a large-scale disaster in a country with no IFRC country representation, a Head of Country Office should be nominated at the earliest convenience

- ❖ Logistics coordination at large scales should be planned as soon as possible in order to be able to reach all the critical areas and be able to help the most vulnerable people. We recommend the following:
  - o Recruitment of a higher number of national volunteers (especially in the time of natural disasters) in order to facilitate a better communication with the local population
  - o Reinforcement of partnerships with RCRC neighboring countries in order to find solutions of deploying more helicopters in inaccessible areas

### **Appendix:**

In addition to this report, the IFRC Working Group prepared six podcasts, which can be accessed through the following links:

[1. IFRC Mozambique Intervention 2019- UNGSP Evaluation - Team introduction](#)

[2. IFRC Mozambique Intervention 2019- UNGSP Evaluation - Introduction](#)

[3. IFRC Mozambique Intervention 2019- UNGSP Evaluation - Pre-disaster](#)

[4. IFRC Mozambique Intervention 2019- UNGSP Evaluation - Pros: Emergency phase](#)

[5. IFRC Mozambique Intervention 2019- UNGSP Evaluation - Cons: Emergency and Recovery phase](#)

[6. IFRC Mozambique Intervention 2019- UNGSP Evaluation - Recommendations](#)



**UNOG**  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE AT GENEVA

57<sup>th</sup> Graduate Study Programme  
*100 Years of Multilateralism*  
World Health Organization Working Group

# COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE 2019

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## **Abstract**

This paper is the work result of the WHO Working Group during the United Nations 57<sup>th</sup> Graduate Study Program; “Looking Back At 100 Years of Multilateralism: Taking Stock and Preparing the Future”.

The participants of the WHO Working Group were asked to present a communication strategy for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). UHC refers to the provision of quality healthcare to all people when and where they need it, without the risk of financial hardship. This communication strategy aims to generate a better understanding of UHC, incentivize partners to support its implementation and encourage member states to make a commitment to it. It has been written under the supervision of Ms. Pippa Haughton, a Communication Officer at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva.

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## Background

UHC means that “all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship”<sup>1</sup>.

UHC refers to a system that provides healthcare to all residents of a specific region or country. It leads to the provision of a specified package of benefits to all members of a society with the end goal of providing financial risk protection, improved access to health services, and improved health outcomes. UHC can be determined by three critical dimensions: who is covered, what services are covered, and how much of the cost is covered.

Achieving UHC is among the targets set by the United Nations in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. Being the organization responsible for achieving this goal. UHC is firmly based on the 1948 WHO Constitution, which declares health as a fundamental human right and commits to ensuring the highest attainable level of health for all.

WHO has three core goals surrounding the implementation of UHC; providing support to countries in developing their own health systems; working to sustain existing UHC; and monitoring progress. To achieve this goal, WHO works in partnership with different organizations and for different purposes. In October 2018, the WHO, alongside UNICEF and the Ministry of Health of Kazakhstan hosted the Global Conference on Primary Health Care. In this Conference it was agreed that primary health care was the cornerstone of UHC<sup>2</sup>.

The ideal allocation dedicated to the health sector – according to the 2001 Declaration of Abuja - is 15 percent of a country’s annual budget<sup>3</sup>. Nevertheless, in 2012 only 14 percent of governments in low and lower-middle income met this target, as well as only 29 percent of upper-middle income and high-income countries. Consequently,

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. *What is health financing for universal coverage?* 2019. [https://www.who.int/health\\_financing/universal\\_coverage\\_definition/en/](https://www.who.int/health_financing/universal_coverage_definition/en/) (accessed, July 4, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. *Global Conference on Primary Health Care.* 2019. <https://www.who.int/primary-health/conference-phc> (accessed July 4, 2019)

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization. *The Abuja Declaration: Ten Years On.* 2012. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/publications/abuja\\_report\\_aug\\_2011.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/publications/abuja_report_aug_2011.pdf?ua=1) (accessed July 8, 2019).

constant monitoring and publication of reports that track how countries are moving towards UHC is important.

Continuous efforts led to the establishment of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage on 23 September 2019. This meeting will be an opportunity for UHC advocates to raise their voices and mobilize political attention globally and locally. The precise theme of the meeting will be “Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to build a Healthier World”<sup>4</sup>.

## **Vision**

This campaign will lead to the expansion of UHC by empowering individuals to develop a better understanding of their health rights, supporting the work of health partners and guiding member states to make a commitment to UHC.

## **Mission**

The three-pronged approach will engage directly with three primary stakeholder groups in the UHC debate through print and digital media, as well as advocacy work.

Stakeholders in the UHC debate will be galvanized to action regarding the implementation of UHC in their respective countries. This includes engaging the general public in discussions surrounding UHC; mobilizing health partners and healthcare workers to advocate for UHC; and incentivizing leaders of member states to attend the September High-Level General Debate on Universal Health Coverage.

## **Target Audiences**

This communications strategy will take a three-pronged approach to engaging with the issue of the provision of UHC worldwide. Three key stakeholders will be addressed through different media and with different messages. We acknowledge that issues pertaining to the provision of UHC differ across regions and within countries, however at the core, the fundamental right for access to quality healthcare remains the same.

### **General Public**

- a. The general public will become more engaged with their healthcare and become empowered in critiquing the strengths and weaknesses of their countries' health systems.

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<sup>4</sup> World Health Assembly. «Constitution of the World Health Organization.» October 2006. [https://www.who.int/governance/eb/who\\_constitution\\_en.pdf](https://www.who.int/governance/eb/who_constitution_en.pdf) (accessed July 3, 2019).

- b. This campaign will improve understanding and appreciation of the importance of UHC - specifically the provision of timely, affordable and quality health care when and where it is needed.

### **Health Workers and Partners**

- a. Health partners will become engaged in UHC activities and advocate for UHC in their work.
- b. Qualified health workers will exchange knowledge and assist in supporting workers from low- and middle-income countries in the early phases of UHC.
- c. The campaign will support health workers and partners in their advocacy and encourage cooperation in the provision of care to under-served areas.

### **Member States**

- d. As a result of this communication campaign, 50% of leaders of member states will attend the high-level meeting on UHC in September.
- e. The campaign will demonstrate to leaders of member states that UHC is both a fundamental human right and a politically powerful motivator by sharing the voices of individuals.

### **Strategies**

1. Demonstrate the power of the individual by giving a platform to members of the general public to share their thoughts and concerns
2. Use social media to provide both a diverse and unifying voice regarding UHC
3. Highlight the challenges encountered by individuals without access to UHC
4. Utilize a multi-platform social media approach to connect with a broad audience across multiple languages
5. Identify “Local Heroes” - individuals with inspirational experiences with healthcare systems - within each of WHO’s regions to give a face and a personal touch to issues pertaining to UHC
6. Create a centralized online hub
7. Engage health workers by creating an Ambassador Programme through which individuals working in the provision of UHC are identified
8. Encourage health partners to participate in the UHC movement by creating WHO Regional Awards

9. Liaise between the general public and member states by collating selected stories from the social media campaign and presenting them to respective member states
10. Produce posters, brochures and other visual media to be distributed in the lead-up to the high-level meeting on UHC to engage with leaders of member states

## **Chain of Communication**

WHO will reach out to regional offices to gain insight into specific examples and case studies from countries of the region. Below is a chain of communication that demonstrates how this can be achieved.

- The communications will be divided into six regions: Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia and West Pacific, according to WHO regional classifications.
- Each WHO regional office will communicate with WHO country offices within their region<sup>5</sup>.
- Each country office will be responsible for preparing a case study (personal story) and an accompanying statistic or fact which will represent the most important health issue or demand relating to UHC in their respective countries.
- The Department of Country Cooperation and Collaboration with the United Nations System (CCU) at WHO headquarters will be responsible for communicating with WHO Representatives (WRs).

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<sup>5</sup> World Health Organization. *WHO regional offices*. 2019. <http://origin.who.int/about/regions/en/> (accessed, July 5, 2019).

## Case Study Examples

### **Africa** (Regional Office in Brazzaville, Congo) [@WHOAFRO](#)

- In Nigeria, there is a lack of medical personnel and issues with the structure of the healthcare system. The UHC coverage index (a scale of 0-100 indicating coverage of essential health services - including reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, noncommunicable diseases and service capacity and access) is 39<sup>6</sup>.
  - Over 50% of infants in Nigeria suffer serious health problems because they have not received three doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine<sup>7</sup>.
  - Story about a toddler with whooping cough [pertussis]. Access to healthcare ensures that he receives treatment.

### **Americas** (Regional Office in Washington DC, USA) [@pahowho](#)

- In the USA, there is an issue with the high cost of medical services. The UHC coverage index is  $\geq 80$ .
  - American low-income families are unable to pay excessive medical expenses and suffer from illness and poverty.
  - Story about a chronically sick mother of three who is unable to pay for healthcare. Access to healthcare would improve the lives of her and her children.
- In Mexico, long appointment times and travel time are problems. The UHC coverage index is 76.
  - A majority of citizens cannot receive timely treatment, due to long waiting times and long distances from medical centers.
  - Story about a hearing-impaired woman in a remote village. Access to healthcare would ensure that she receives hearing aids.

### **Eastern Mediterranean** (Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt) [@WHOEMRO](#)

- In Pakistan, there is a lack of health facilities in rural areas. The UHC coverage index is 40.
  - A man with a bowel infection, living in a small village. Access to healthcare would mean that a doctor from the city can come to his village treat him.

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<sup>6</sup> The World Bank. *UHC service coverage index*. 2017.  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.UHC.SRVS.CV.XD> (accessed July 8, 2019)

<sup>7</sup> World Health Organization. *Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria*. 2018.  
<http://apps.who.int/uhc/en/countries/nga/> (accessed July 8, 2019).

**Europe** (Regional Office in Copenhagen, Denmark)  [@WHO\\_Europe](https://twitter.com/WHO_Europe)

- In the Netherlands, long appointment waiting time is an issue. The UHC index is  $\geq 80$ .
  - Story about an elderly citizen living in the capital who is on a surgical waiting list. Access to healthcare means that he gets a hip operation in a short amount of time.
- In Russia, there is a lack of health facilities in small villages. The UHC index is 63.
  - Story of a Russian boy living in a rural village who has a physical disability. With access to healthcare his father could bring him to the city hospital for physical therapy.

**South-East Asia** (Regional Office in New Delhi, India)  [@WHOSEARO](https://twitter.com/WHOSEARO)

- In Bangladesh, there are insufficient facilities to tackle communicable and noncommunicable diseases. The UHC coverage index is 46.
  - 47% of people with tuberculosis in Bangladesh still cannot be successfully treated<sup>8</sup>.
  - Story of a ten-year old girl receiving a tuberculosis vaccination (BCG). Access to healthcare reduces her risk of contracting TB.

**Western Pacific** (Regional Office in Manila, Philippines)  [@WHOWPRO](https://twitter.com/WHOWPRO)

- In China, there are issues with high costs for serious illness and surgery & the need for insurance. The UHC index is 76.
  - Story of a family that does not have enough savings to pay for the treatment for their two-year-old boy. Access to healthcare means that their child receives treatment for croup.

## Media Outlets

In the development of this campaign, news outlets will be contacted regarding the High-Level meeting and the pertinent issues being discussed. Most importantly, a few core news outlets with high circulation in each WHO region will be approached and

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<sup>8</sup> World Health Organization. *Universal Health Coverage in Bangladesh*. 2018. <http://apps.who.int/uhc/en/countries/bgd/> (accessed July 8, 2019).

encouraged to cover the proceedings. The imbalance in access to and provision of healthcare services, and the obligation of states to participate in the discussion will be emphasized in correspondence.

WHO Region	Example News Outlet	Contact Details
Africa	New Visions, Uganda	w: <a href="https://www.newvision.co.ug/">https://www.newvision.co.ug/</a>
Americas	The New York Times, USA	e: <a href="mailto:nytnews@nytimes.com">nytnews@nytimes.com</a>
Eastern Mediterranean	Al Jazeera, Qatar	w: <a href="https://network.aljazeera.com/contact-us">https://network.aljazeera.com/contact-us</a> t: (+974) 44896666
Europe	The Guardian, UK	e: <a href="mailto:politics@theguardian.com">politics@theguardian.com</a>
South-East Asia	Dainik Bhaskar, India	w: <a href="https://www.bhaskar.com/contact-us/">https://www.bhaskar.com/contact-us/</a>
Western Pacific	Cānkǎo Xiāoxī, China	t: 010-63071136 e: <a href="mailto:cknews@vip.sina.com">cknews@vip.sina.com</a>

In addition to this, we will further engage with these valuable resources by providing representatives with media/press kits. These kits will include key talking points, statistics and relevant information about the implementation of UHC in specific countries. They will be distributed to country offices to help in addressing questions from the press.

## Key Messages

1. At least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services<sup>9</sup>
2. 100 million still pushed into extreme poverty because of health expenses<sup>10</sup>
3. 45,000 people die every year due to a lack of health insurance<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> World Health Organization. *New report shows that 400 million do not have access to essential health services*. 2015. <https://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/uhc-report/en/> (accessed July 9, 2019).

<sup>10</sup> World Health Organization. *World Bank and WHO report*. 2017. <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/> (accessed July 9, 2019).

<sup>11</sup> David Cecere. *News study finds 45,000 deaths annually linked to lack of health coverage*. 2009. <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/09/new-study-finds-45000-deaths-annually-linked-to-lack-of-health-coverage/> (accessed July 9, 2019).

## General Public

1. General public will have their voices heard by decision makers with the help of social media (Instagram, Twitter, Weibo, vk.com);
2. General public can be active in the promotion of UHC.

## Health Workers and Partners

1. By 2035, there will be an estimated shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers<sup>12</sup>;
2. Involvement of health partners supports national development objectives.

## Member States

1. UHC is key to improving countries' economies and nations' well-being;
2. Although the implementation of UHC may be different across countries and regions, every country can do something to advance UHC;
3. UHC may increase support of the state in the minds of citizens. People who have been promised UHC may be more inclined to support their government, which provides a political incentive.

## Products

### General Public: #MyHealthStory Campaign

Due to the significant diversity worldwide regarding the types of issues encountered surrounding UHC, and in order to try to appeal to a broader audience, we propose framing each social media campaign around one of the six WHO regional offices: Africa, the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia and West Pacific.

- 1. Each regional WHO office tweets a simple prompt: “What is your health story?”**

We anticipate that this campaign will engage with citizens by encouraging them to share stories about the issues that exist when countries do not provide UHC to their citizens. The variation in responses both between and within countries could be levied as a comparison to demonstrate the benefit of UHC. Part of this campaign

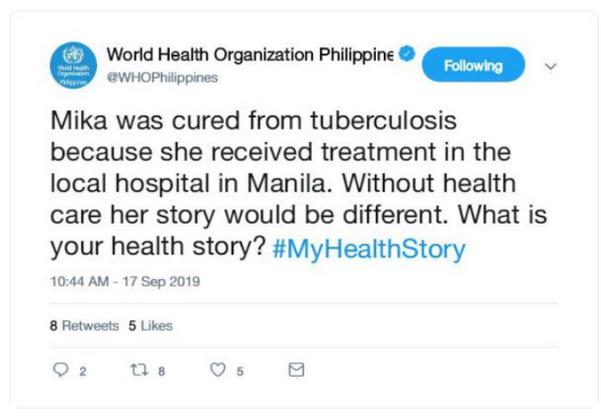
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<sup>12</sup> World Health Organization. *Expanding access to health services with self-care interventions*. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/expanding-access-to-health-services-with-self-care-interventions>(accessed July 9 2019).

involves sharing these Tweets with member state representatives, empowering the general public by having their voices heard in the UHC debate.

Any communications strategy that relies upon the response of the general public introduces an element of uncertainty. However, the risk of this campaign reflecting poorly on WHO is minimal, as the sharing of stories related to failure to access health services can be seen as a desirable outcome that demonstrates the need for UHC.

### Sample tweets

Account	Text	Image/Video
<a href="#">@who</a>		<p>Collage of three pictures with different faces (mixed in gender/cultural setting). Text: “Still 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services. Make health care universal”.</p>
<a href="#">@WHOPhilippines</a>		<p>Close-up photo of Mika in Manila. Hospital background. Text: “People in the Philippines lack access to essential health services. Make Health Care Universal.</p>

<p><a href="#">@WHOSieraLeone</a></p>		<p>Close-up photo of Alieu in Sierra Leone. Hospital background. Text: “People in Sierra Leone lack essential health services. Make Health Care Universal.</p>
<p><a href="#">@WHOThailand</a></p>		<p>Close-up photo of Kanokporn in Thailand. Hospital background. Text: “People in Thailand lack access to essential health services. Make Health Care Universal.</p>

These campaigns can also be rolled out on other social media platforms to ensure a more global reach. For example, Weibo and vk.com may be used.

**2. Based on these tweets, each regional WHO office will select a “Local Hero” to serve as a health ambassador**

These individuals will give a more personal edge to the stories surrounding difficulties and challenges in accessing healthcare services. Images, videos and other materials can be shared including the individual’s story, and perhaps a single line expressing that the story could have been much happier if UHC had been available.

**3. WHO representatives select specific tweets that are representative of issues being raised by the general public in their country, and combine these with pertinent facts and figures**

Individuals engage more with health information when it is shared by trusted organizations than by individuals, and engage more with factual information than

with personal stories.<sup>13</sup> The combination of individual-led and organization-led, story-based and fact-based elements of the social media campaign will effectively engage with members of the general public.

#### 4. Website

The website “www.myhealthstory.int” serves as a central hub for the campaign. It aims to give visibility to the importance of UHC by portraying real life stories in text/pictures and video. The interface includes a submit button, which allows people to submit their personal health stories to the website. These stories will be exhibited on an interactive geographical map, providing in depth information on differences in health care worldwide. The stories can be shared on social media and will encourage more people to engage with the UHC debate.<sup>14</sup>

#### Website Sample Story

Qin Guqi is the father of Qin Youran, a two-year-old boy. They live in Guizhou Province in China. Qin Guqi earns about 4,000 CNY/month. In March 2018, his son suddenly developed a high fever and was diagnosed with a transverse membranous blastoma. The total cost for the surgery was estimated at 800,000 CNY. Unable to afford medical expenses, the child’s mother left the family. Qin Guqi spent his life savings seeking treatment for his child. However this was not enough, so Qin Guqi asked for help from a Chinese Internet platform. Over 1,000 people donated for his son’s treatment, making it possible to have the surgery. Now Qin Youran is doing well.

In China, the actual reimbursement rate for health care of serious illness is low. This cuts access to healthcare for people who cannot afford to pay for medical treatments. Specialized hospitals are scarce. This results in people having to travel long distances to receive the right medical treatment. Challenges and opportunities for the realization of UHC in China are: lowering individual expenses, providing more specialized hospitals in different regions, improving reimbursement rates, and subsidizing medicines.

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<sup>13</sup> Zhang, Jingwen, Gem Le, David Larochelle, Rena Pasick, George F. Sawaya, Urmimala Sarkar, and Damon Centola. "Facts or stories? How to use social media for cervical cancer prevention: A multi-method study of the effects of sender type and content type on increased message sharing." *Preventive medicine*(2019): 105751.

<sup>14</sup>

## Health Workers and Partners

Healthcare workers and partners both have at stake in advocating for UHC. This campaign strategy consists of two focus points, as these two groups differ in practices and communications.

### **1. WHO Universal Health Care Local Ambassadorship**

The aim of the UHC ambassadorship is to engage more healthcare workers in the importance of UHC. Healthcare workers are in direct contact with patients. Their efforts are crucial in making UHC a reality. They know the local healthcare system intimately and can indicate the obstacles to UHC at a local level. An ambassadors programme will be implemented in which local health workers are encouraged to advocate for the importance of UHC.

Emails and letters are sent to local health offices, with an invitation to nominate a health worker for the local “WHO Universal Health Care” ambassadorship. The nomination rewards the efforts of a healthcare worker in promoting UHC and gives them an opportunity to stand out. With the ambassadorship comes a network of local healthcare ambassadors, and the possibility to engage in an annual WHO event in which their opinions are collected and are used as input for improving UHC.

### **2. WHO Universal Health Care NGO Collaboration Awards**

The aim of this award is to engage more healthcare partners in advocating for the importance of UHC. It wants NGOs to work collaboratively on sustainable projects on the topic of UHC. It is held annually and set out by each of WHO’s regional offices. The award also underlines the importance of promoting and implementing the UHC goals locally. Furthermore, increased efforts and awareness on the issue will positively influence policy agenda about UHC.

WHO country representatives can nominate a group of NGOs that have combined their efforts in promoting the cause. The winners are selected by an independent jury, and their success stories will be posted on the international WHO website.

## Member States

This campaign will demonstrate to leaders of member states that the issue of UHC is not only pertinent to the provision of a fundamental human right to their citizens but may also play a role in their longevity as leaders due to the extent of engagement from members of the public, which has implications on political support.

### **1. Email member states a document containing personal stories about UHC from the citizens of their countries**

This process will follow directly from the general public's social media campaign. It will involve collating sample tweets obtained through the social media campaign from each member state, collected by WHO's regional offices and inserting them into a pre-prepared document about UHC. These personalized documents will tell the general story of UHC, as well as the personal stories of issues surrounding healthcare in respective countries. These emails will be sent out in the week or days leading up to the high-level meeting on UHC to engage with leaders about the issue.

### **2. Produce informative posters and brochures**

These relatively simple tools will be used to engage member states on the issue of UHC and keep it at the forefront of people's minds, enticing leaders to attend the high-level meeting. They will also highlight pertinent facts on the basis of issues raised by the general public in the social media campaign. These are to be distributed before the High-Level meetings, and can contain a mixture of information, statistics and personal stories.

## Funding

1. Involvement of more partners (ministries of health of countries like China, The USA, the UK, Russia, Germany)
2. Donation from the general public - funding comes in to support campaign
3. Philanthropy

## Monitoring and Evaluation of Campaign

The success of the campaign can be measured at several points. The first of which is the degree of engagement with the social media #MyHealthStory campaign. This can be quantified through the number of shares and Tweets. The second moment at which the campaign's success could be measured would be through the rate of attendance of leaders at the High-Level meeting. Commitment to providing UHC would also be ascertained. Following up states' commitments and supporting them in their implementation of UHC would be valuable. Finally, after the conclusion of the campaign, the degree to which NGOs and health partners aid in the provision of healthcare and the establishment of UHC can be assessed.

### Timeline

Dates	Communication Activities
<b>Before the Meeting</b>	
15-July-2019 to 31-July-2019	Communication to WRs by CCU, following the chain of communication i.e. Member states and policy makers etc. Begin construction of centralized online hub
22-July-2019 to 20-Sept-2019	Promotion of event through online media, rolling out of #MyHealthStory campaign
15-July-2019 to 09-Aug-2019	Content development and gathering source material for Local Heroes and WR country-specific social media campaigns Contact regional news outlets
11-Aug-2019 to 01-Sept-2019	Continue social media campaign, collate selected key Tweets alongside statistics and facts for distribution. Finalize posters and brochures Finalize and distribute press/media kits
02-Sept-2019 to 20-Sept-2019	Distribute final material and guide to member state and attendees Begin campaign targeted at health workers and health partners - reach out to WR

<b>During the Meeting</b>	
23-Sept- 2019	Supporting the event; providing helping material Maintain the social media campaign throughout the session.
<b>After the Meeting</b>	
01-Oct-2019 to 11-Oct-2019	Continue social media campaign Ascertain success of campaign as measured through attendance at High-Level meeting Identify health partners for Local Ambassadorship
01-Oct-2019 to 30-Dec-2030	Continue social media campaign Follow up with member states regarding their commitments achievements Supporting policy makers on UHC Begin planning for implementation of WHO Collaboration Awards



Still .... People in the Sierra Leone lack access  
to the most essential health services

**Make access to health  
care universal**



**WHAT IS MY HEALTH STORY?**



Still .... People in the Phillipines lack access to  
the most essential health services

**Make access to health  
care universal**

**WHAT IS MY HEALTH STORY?**



# TWITTER CAMPAIGN

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR  
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

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