

# BWC-Confidence Building Measures: Adapting Nigeria's CBM reporting to best practices

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by

**Mr. Andrew, David Adejo**

**Permanent Secretary (PEAO)/ Chairman**

**Nigeria- National Authority on Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions**



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# National Coordination for BWC Implementation

- Nigeria signed the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BTWC) on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1972 and ratified same in 1973.
- In fulfilling Nigeria's obligation under the Convention, the Federal Government in 2003 approved that the National Authority on Chemical Weapons Convention take up the additional responsibility of coordinating national implementation of the BTWC in Nigeria. The National Authority was thereafter re-christened as National Authority on Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions (NAC&BWC).
- To underscore the importance of the Convention to Nigeria and for effective coordination, supervision and prompt response, the NAC&BWC was moved from the Ministry of Defence to the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), Presidency .
- Nigeria also set up an Inter-Ministerial Council (IMC) to provide leadership in the Implementation of the Convention. [Members of the IMC](#) cut across several sectors of the Nigerian Economy and coordinated by the NAC&BWC.



# CBM preparation: data collection and national stakeholders

NAC&BWC oversees the fulfilment of CBM declaration requirements, with the involvement of national stakeholders, including relevant members of the IMC.

- Preparation process is initiated by January each year with in-house preparatory meetings.
  - Approval sought and received from the chairman, NAC&BWC to contact relevant members of the IMC for necessary information.
- **Data gathering begins by early February**
  - Letters forwarded to relevant members of the IMC to provide necessary information on areas of the CBM that is relative to their mandates.
  - Desktop research, information gathering for any new biotechnology facility and laboratory as well as updating previous information.



# CBM preparation: data collection and national stakeholders (2)

## Relevant stakeholders involved in Nigeria CBM preparation:

CBM Part A - Part 1 (Exchange of data on research centres and laboratories) and Part 2 (Exchange of information on national biological defence research and development programmes) and Part F:

Ministry of Defence, Defence Headquarters, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.  
Nigeria Police Force (***N.B. - Nigeria has no previous or ongoing offensive or defensive programme***)

CBM Part B - Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins:

Federal Ministry of Health and its agencies (National Public Health Department for 2007 & 2008 CBM report; Nigeria Centre for Disease Control since 2018 report)

CBM Part E - Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures:

Federal Ministry of Justice (**The Ministry chaired the committee that drafted Nigeria's legislation on Biological Weapons. Bill has undergone several legislative processes and is awaiting passage by the National Assembly**)

CBM Part G – Declaration of vaccine production facilities:

Federal Ministry of Science and Technology; National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA); National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA). (**The National Vaccine & Biological Institute (NVBI), Lagos was identified as the only facility proposed for the production of vaccines in Nigeria - Facility not yet operational**).



# CBM REPORT AND SUBMISSION

- Information (especially for CBM Parts B and G) are received from stakeholders from second week of March (four weeks to deadline – 15<sup>th</sup> April), thereby ensuring that accurate and up-to-date information are collated.
- Received information collated and reviewed by NAC&BWC. Final CBMs report then generated and submitted to BWC-ISU.
- Total of four CBMs submitted by Nigeria (2007, 2008, 2018 and 2019). CBMs were transmitted to the BWC – ISU through email.



# **IMPORTANCE OF CBM TO NIGERIA**

- **Need to tackle increasing Threats of Terrorism.**
- **Re-inforces Nigeria's Commitment to the Covention and Gives Comfort to Member State Parties**
- **CBM submission showed Nigeria's transparency and support for the BWC, thus ensuring fulfilment of one of her obligations as a State Party to the Convention.**
- **Acquisition of new information/update about activities in the relevant sectors of the economy (security, biotechnology and health), which is important for national planning purpose.**
- **Improved collaboration between the NAC&BWC and relevant MDAs e.g. NAC&BWC now receive monthly epidemiological information from NCDC.**
- **Better engagement with regulators in the security (especially Police and NSCDC) and Biotechnology (NBMA and NABDA) sectors.**

# CHALLENGES

- **Inadequate stakeholders' awareness about CBM.**
- **Use of electronic-CBM Platform for submission of report.**
- **Capacity to conduct inventory as well as development of national database for biological laboratories and biotechnological facilities.**
- **Concerns on Disclosure (Security).**
- **Absence of comprehensive National Database on Biological Laboratories and the Biotechnological Industry.**



# RECENT CBM TRAINING WORKSHOP AND LESSONS LEARNED

- **In order to develop capacities to overcome these listed and other identified national implementation challenges, Nigeria is currently participating in the EU-Supported National Preparedness Programme (NPP).**
  - The NPP is aimed at developing capacities of States Parties, based on their self-identified needs.
  - Programme launched on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020
- **To underscore the importance Nigeria accords CBM, it was the first activity undertaken in her NPP.**
  - Training conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020
  - Over 30 participants from relevant national stakeholders (security, health, biotechnology, etc)
  - Experience was shared by invited National Authorities (Nigeria, South Africa and Switzerland) and BWC-ISU.



# RECENT CBM TRAINING WORKSHOP AND LESSONS LEARNED (2)

- **Lessons from the CBM training**
  - Deepening Stakeholder Engagement – Inclusion of stakeholders in the Agricultural and Food sectors in information gathering (CBM Forms A , B and G);
  - Strengthening and Retaining Focal Points (Identification of at least one (1) person in each relevant MDAs and Private Sector Partners for provision of required information);
  - Improving Inter-Agency and Inter-Sectoral Ownership and “Buy-in” as well as communication across sectors (legislative, Regulatory etc);
  - Using the eCBM platform for submission. With this recently held training and further upcoming support from BWC-ISU, Nigeria plans to submit her next CBM report through this medium.
  - Strengthening engagement with the academic, Defence and Medical research groups to ensure they are in tune with their roles in relation to the BWC (CBM Part C).
  - Deepen Awareness Creation Strategies and Coordination Mechanisms.



# CONCLUSION

- **As CBMs remain the only formal tool for promoting transparency and building confidence under the BWC, States Parties are encouraged to continue erasing doubts and suspicions by submitting their CBM reports promptly.**
- **Nigeria's approach to CBM reporting provided inclusive stakeholders participation, thus ensuring integrity of CBM reports.**
- **ISU is encouraged to continue provide support to States Parties to achieve their CBM reporting 'obligation'.**
- **ISU is further encouraged to follow up on States Parties through effective and regular communication so as to keep them abreast of happenings within the organisation.**



**End of Presentation**

**Thank you for your Attention**

# Members of the Inter Ministerial Council (IMC) on Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions

- National Authority on Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions (NAC&BWC);
- Ministry of Defence (Defence Headquarters);
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA);
- Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMS&T);
- Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv);
- Federal Ministry of Education (FMedu);
- Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources (FMPR);
- Federal Ministry of Justice (FMoJ);
- Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH);
- Federal Ministry of Information and Culture (FMI&C);
- Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI);
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMA&RD);
- Federal Ministry of Interior (FMoi);
- Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA);
- Directorate of State Services (DSS);
- National Intelligence Agency (NIA);
- Nigeria Immigration Agency (NIS);
- Nigeria Customs Service (NCS);
- Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)
- Federal Fire Service (FFS);
- National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC);
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA);
- National Universities Commission (NUC);
- National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA);
- National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA);
- National Orientation Agency (NOA);
- National Research Institute for Chemical Technology (NARICT)
- University of Abuja (UNIABUJA);
- Sheda Science and Technology complex (SHESTCO)
- Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN);
- Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (NACCIMA);
- Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON);
- Nigeria Police Force (NPF);
- Institute of Chartered Chemist of Nigeria (ICCN);
- Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) (Abuja Chapter).

# CBM reporting Areas

- According to the decisions of the Third Review Conference, CBMs declarations are to be reported as follows, using the agreed form:
  - CBM A - Part 1 (Exchange of data on research centres and laboratories) and Part 2 (Exchange of information on national biological defence research and development programmes);
  - CBM B - Exchange of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins;
  - CBM C - Encouragement of publication of results and promotion of use of knowledge;
  - CBM D – Active promotion of contacts;
  - CBM E - Declaration of legislation, regulations and other measures;
  - CBM F - Declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programmes; and
  - CBM G - Declaration of vaccine production facilities.

**N.B: Amendment by the Seventh Review Conference removed CBM - D (Active promotion of contacts)**