An exchange platform for voluntary transparency exercises

A FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR BTWC
BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/WP.5
From Peer reviews to Platform for voluntary transparency exercises

- Proposal of a BTWC « peer review mechanism » submitted by France in 2011 during the 7th review conference (BWC/CONF.VII/WP.28)

- **3 main objectives:**
  - Reinforcing national **implementation** of the Convention
  - Enhancing **confidence** in compliance through transparency
  - Enhancing international **cooperation**

- A voluntary mechanism respecting **States’ sovereignty**
A proposal that progressively gained momentum

- France conducted a **pilot** peer review exercise in December 2013 in order to
  - demonstrate the feasibility of a peer review mechanism under the BTWC
  - dispel possible concerns
- Since 2011, **15 countries have taken the initiative to host a transparency exercise.** 35 countries involved from all regional groups
- **This positive dynamic must be sustained**
What are voluntary transparency exercises?

- Voluntary transparency exercises are not aimed at replacing the verification protocol that was not adopted in 2001.
- Voluntary transparency exercises must be seen as confidence-building measures aimed at:
  - Improving national implementation of the Convention
  - Improving confidence, share best practices and experiences on national implementation
  - Pave the way and to greater international, regional and bilateral cooperation
Establish an exchange platform

- France proposes to **create an exchange platform for voluntary transparency exercises** in order to:
  - **Support** national implementation efforts
  - **Exchange** information and best practices
  - Develop a **compendium** of all transparency exercises
  - Identify possible needs for assistance

- A **flexible** framework for interested States
Way forward

- France will launch this exchange platform in a **meeting** on the margins of a BTWC meeting.

- This meeting would be **open to all States parties and civil society.**