AGENDA ITEM 5: Confidence Building Measures (CBM) submissions in terms of quantity and quality

Update by the BWC ISU

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Aim and objectives of CBMs

... to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions, and in order to improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities

BWC/CONF.II/13/II, p.6 (1986)
CBM Reports – Basic Facts

- cover the activities of previous calendar year
- Comprise of a
  - Summary Form (Form 0)
  - main body (six CBM Measures A-G)
- to be submitted by **15 April each year**
- Accessibility:
  - restricted only to other States Parties
  - freely available
- Submission options:
  - online submission via electronic CBM Platform
  - Via e-mail to **bwc@un.org**
  - Hard copy
ISU Mandate

- Maintain a secure website and make all CBM reports available to States Parties (done through the electronic CBM platform)
- Circulate to national points of contact an annual reminder three months prior to the deadline (i.e. on 15 January every year)
- Regularly inform States Parties about CBM returns and provides statistics on the level of participation at the annual meetings of States Parties (reflected in the Annual Report of the ISU)
- Facilitate activities to promote participation in the CBM process, as agreed by the States Parties
CBM Submissions in 2020

- Record number of 85 submissions in 2020 (46.4%) covering the calendar year 2019
- Of these, 39 States Parties submitted their CBMs on or before 15 April 2020
- 7 States Parties which submitted a CBM in 2019 did not do so in 2020
- 10 States Parties which did not submit a CBM in 2019 did so in 2020
- 1 State Party submitted a CBM for the first time in 2020 (Maldives)
- 55 States Parties had never submitted a CBM report as of 31/12/2020
Preliminary Trends for 2021

Positive Indications for 2021 Submissions:

- As of the end of August, 85 States Parties have submitted CBM reports – 13 more submissions that at the same time last year
- 3 States Parties submitted CBM reports for the first time in 2021 (Afghanistan, Guatemala, Mozambique)

Increased number of CBM submissions made through the eCBM platform

- 24% of submissions via eCBM platform
- +440 experts from 83 States Parties registered on eCBM platform

Heightened interest by States Parties in CBM training and/or support:

- provided to 7 States Parties in close collaboration with States Parties
- planned for 4 States Parties
- Gratitude to States Parties having provided experts for CBM trainings in 2020 and 2021 (Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa, Switzerland)
For more information ...

www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons

Or contact:

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