

An exchange platform for voluntary transparency exercises : Terms of reference



**A FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR BTWC
BWC/MSP/2020/MX.3/WP.4**

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

Terms of reference



- The exchange Platform gathers every year in a meeting, open to all States Parties, on the margins of MX3
- Proceedings of the yearly exchange Platform are sustained by the ISU
- The Implementation Support Unit is in charge of the administration of an online portal of the Platform