

**Confidence-building-measures : Annual information exchange of State Parties  
(Reports 2000-2005)**

***Introduction:***

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference of the BTWC in 1986, the States Parties agreed to implement some measures intended to strengthen compliance with the Convention and to improve transparency. These were extended at the Third Review Conference in 1991. These confidence-building-measures (CBMs) consist of an annual exchange of data and information, as well as declarations of past and present activities of relevance to the Convention.

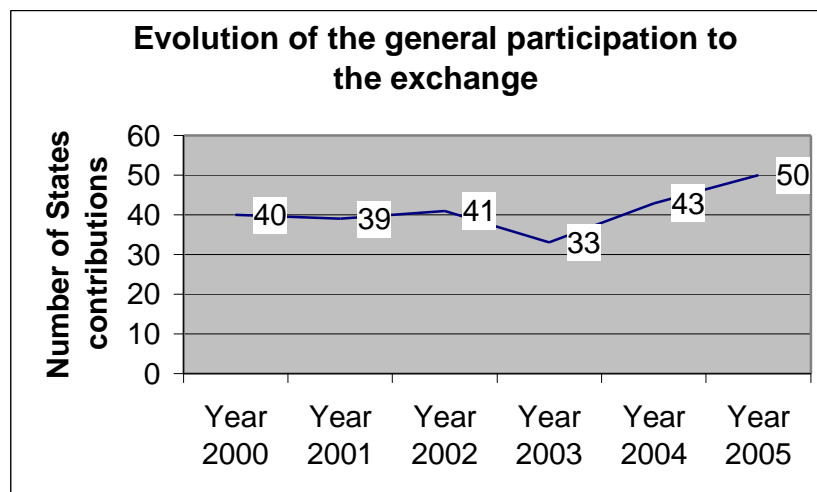
In November 2006, the Sixth Review Conference of the BTWC will take place in Geneva and the question of strengthening the CBM mechanism will be one of the issues of interest.

This report is therefore an overview of the information submitted by State Parties to the BWC from 2000 to 2005.

**1) General Trends:**

General participation to the exchange since 2000:

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Number of contributions</b>	40	39	41	33	43	50



***Analysis***

These figures are approximatively at the same level as during the previous decade (1990-2000) when the number of contributions varied from 31 (1990) to 53 (1996).

Between 2000 and 2005:

- 23 States Parties have submitted data every year.
- 60 have done so at least once.
- More than 90 have never participated.

In other words, only a minority of States are involved in this exchange of information.

Every year, less than a third of State Parties to the Convention submit a declaration<sup>1</sup>.

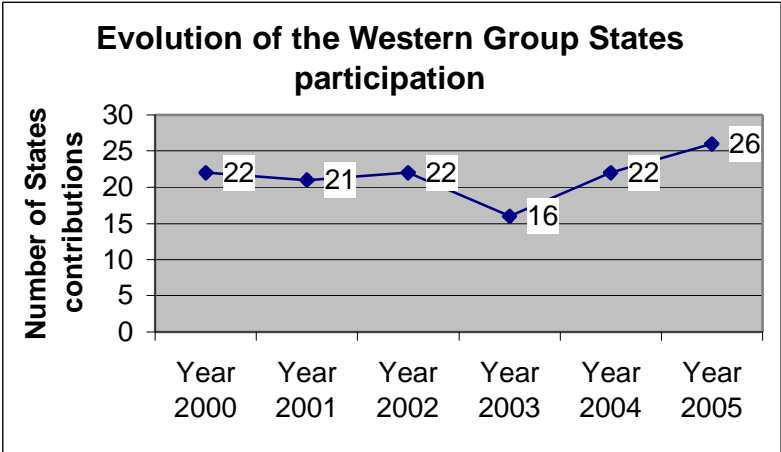
**2) Trends in Regional groups**

*-a) Trends in the Western Group*

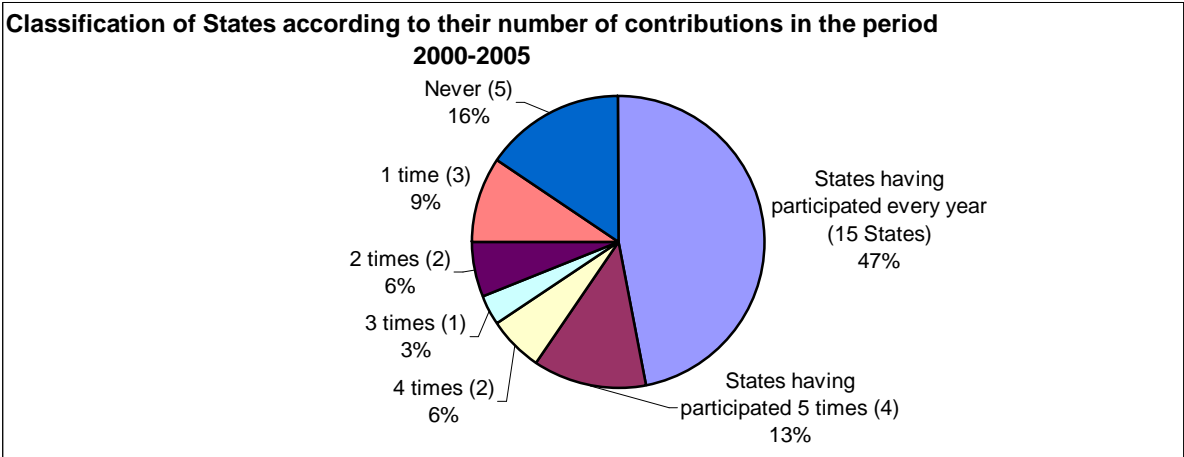
The Western group is composed of 32 States Parties to the BTWC.

Evolution of the participation in this group:

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of States contributions	22	21	22	16	22	26
% of States participating	68,75	65,625	68,75	50	68,75	81,25



Number of contributions by Western Group States in the period:



- The States having participated every year are the following ones : Argentina, Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, New-Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United States

<sup>1</sup> In June 2005, there were 155 State Parties to the BWC

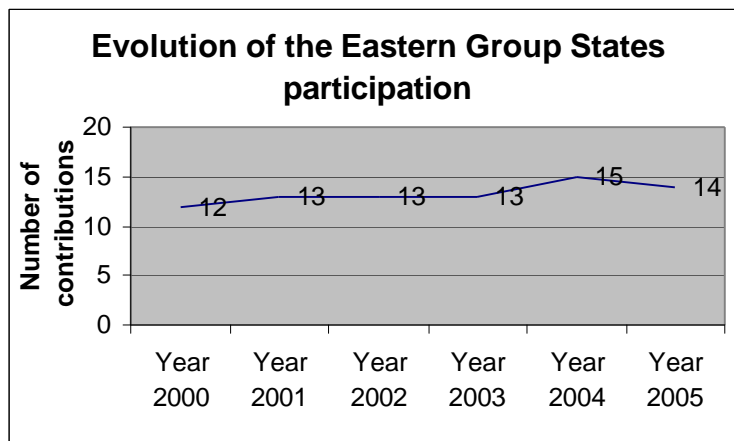
- The States having participated 5 times are the following ones: Austria, Belgium, France, United Kingdom
- 4 times: Liechtenstein, Sweden
- 3 times: Malta
- 2 times: Ireland, San Marino
- once: Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg
- The States having never participated are the following ones : Cyprus, Holy See, Iceland, Monaco, Portugal.

**- b) Trends in the Eastern Group:**

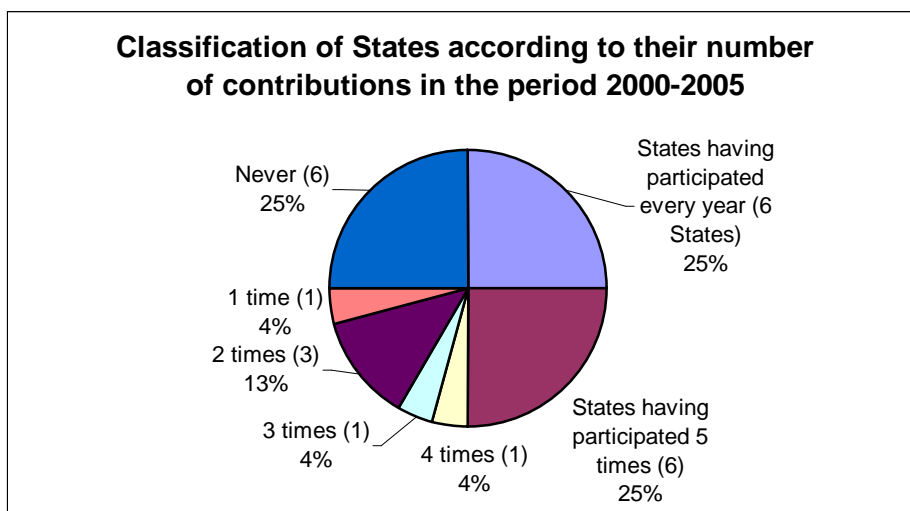
This group is composed of 24 States Parties.

Evolution of the participation in this group:

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Number of States</b>	12	13	13	13	15	14
<b>% of participating States</b>	50	54,1666667	54,1666667	54,1666667	62,5	58,3333333



Number of contributions by Eastern Group States in the period:



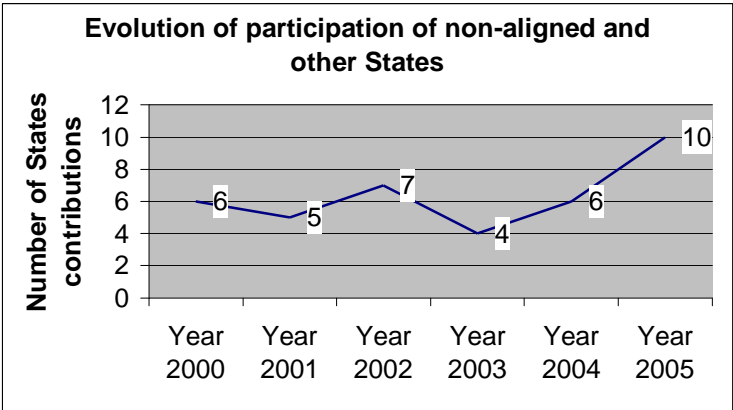
- The States that submitted data every year are the following ones: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Russia, Slovakia.
- The States that participated 5 times are the following ones: Estonia, Georgia, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
- 4 times: Hungary
- 3 times: Latvia
- 2 times: Armenia, Croatia, Slovenia
- Once: Serbia-Montenegro
- States that never participated: Azerbaidjan, Albania, Bosnia, Moldavia, Macedonia, Tadjikistan

**- c) Trends in the group of Non-Aligned and other States:**

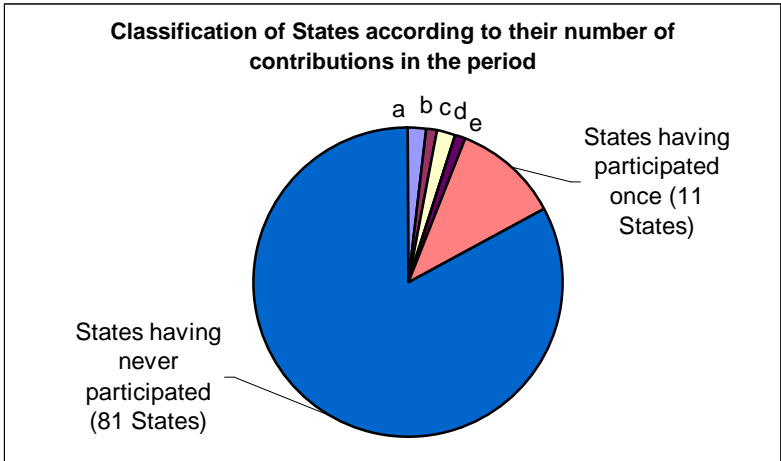
This group is composed of 98 States Parties.

Evolution of the participation in this group

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Number of States</b>	6	5	7	4	6	10
<b>% of participating States</b>	6,12244898	5,10204082	7,14285714	4,08163265	6,12244898	10,2040816



Number of contributions by States in the period:



- Légende:**
- a:** States having participated every year (2 States)
  - b:** States having participated 5 times (1)
  - c:** 4 times (2)
  - d:** 3 times (0)
  - e:** 2 times (1)

- The States that have submitted data every year are the following ones: China, Cuba
- States that have done so 5 times: South Africa
- 4 times: Brazil, Chile
- No States have participated 3 times
- 2 times: Costa Rica
- Once: Belize, Grenada, Iran, Lybia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Qatar, Tunisia, Turkmenistan
- The 81 others have never participated.

**- d) Analysis**

These figures allow us to reach two main conclusions:

**- The level of participation in each group is quite constant:**

In the Western Group, it is usually between 60 and 70 %, except for the year 2005 when this figure reached 81%. It will be interesting to determine whether this positive trend will be confirmed.

In the Eastern Group, it is usually between 50 and 60 %

In the Non aligned and other States group, it is usually below 10%, except for the year 2005. It will be also interesting to see whether this positive trend is confirmed.

On a general point of view, a light increase in the number of contributions can be noticed these last two years, but it remains below the highest point reached in 1996 (53).

**- There are significant differences in the different groups level of participation.**

The participation level is especially low in the Non aligned and other States Group. In this group, many States have given information only once. About 10 % of them (11 States) have done so since 2000. But many have also participated once (or twice) in the 80's/90's. Among the 82 States that have never submitted data since 2000, 27 have done so (about a third). Therefore, over 40 % of these States have participated to the exchange at least once in the history.

They may consider that participating once is enough if they have nothing more to say.

### **3) Trends among “particularly important” States:**

The Sunshine Project<sup>2</sup> distinguished 27 countries considered as “particularly important”. According to its authors, they meet at least one of the criteria as follows:

- “BWC depositary countries” (Russia, United Kingdom, United States)
- “Countries which had BW programmes in the past” (Canada, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Russia, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States)
- “Countries which have officially been accused of BWC non-compliance” (Iran, Iraq, Lybia, North Korea, Russia, Sudan, Syria, United States)
- “Countries with a highly-developed biotechnological capacity” (are added to the already mentionned countries: Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden, Singapore)

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<sup>2</sup> The Sunshine Project published in september 2005 a summary and analysis of data submitted under the Bioweapons Convention's confidence building measures between 1987 and 2003.

Argentina, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey could be added to this list as militarily significant States.

We can note that not all these States are Parties to the Convention.

Since 2000, among these 32 States:

- 11 States submitted CBMs every year: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Cuba, Germany, Italy, Japan, Turkey, Russia, United States.
- 3 States did so 5 times: France (2003 is missing), South Africa (2001), United Kingdom (2001)
- 2 States did so 4 times: Sweden and Brazil
- No States did so 2 or 3 times
- 3 States did so once: Iran (2002); Lybia (2005), Mexico (2004)
- 13 States never participated: Egypt (non State Party; Treaty signed but not ratified), India (participated once in 97), Indonesia, Iraq (participated in the 90's), Israel (non State Party), Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Singapore, Sudan (State Party since 2003), Syria (non State Party; Treaty signed but not ratified).

In this “group”, we can therefore distinguish two categories of States:

- 16 which always -or almost always- participate
- 16 which never -or almost never- participate

#### **4) Qualitative analysis**

After having studied the number of contributions (quantitative analysis), we can now adopt an analytic point of view.

This allows us to make different observations:

*First, some remarks have to be done on the following notions: “nothing to declare” and “nothing new to declare”:*

The form is divided into 11 different kinds of measures and questions that States have to answer. A simple pro forma gives States the opportunity to tick boxes called “nothing to declare” and “nothing new to declare” for each CBM.

The existence of this introductory Declaration Form is beneficial as a way to buy time, but States seem to have different understandings of these expressions. Indeed, most States do not submit any information for the measures for which they have ticked one of these boxes, but it is not the case for all of them.

When States submit data while indicating “nothing new to declare”, this generally means that they are giving the same information as previous years.

When States submit data while indicating “nothing to declare”, the situation is more ambiguous. This probably means that these answers are insignificant and/or do not pose any problems regarding compliance with the Convention.

But these are only assumptions and one cannot be sure regarding the States’ understanding of these notions. There is no clear definition of these notions. A clarification would be useful.

***Secondly, one can note a great variety regarding the quality of the forms:***

If a majority of States fills out the form in a substantive manner, that is not the case for all of them:

- A small number of States answer a minority of answers without justifying it by indicating “nothing to declare” or “nothing new to declare”.
- A greater number of them indicate “nothing to declare” for a lot of CBMs and therefore generally deliver little information. It is difficult to determine whether they have effectively “nothing to declare” or whether it is an issue of willingness.
- Some others indicate “nothing new to declare” for a lot of CBMs. In theory, this means that the information has been delivered in a previous report, but it is difficult and time-consuming to check.
- Some others tick both kinds of boxes, which raises the same issues. Some even only tick boxes in the Introduction Declaration Form without submitting further information.

***Conclusion:***

The participation to the exchange is limited. Every year, in the 90’s as well as since 2000, less than one third of States Parties submit data. Efforts should therefore aim at increasing this level of participation and we can note that the strengthening of the mechanism at the september 1991 Third Review Conference allowed a light improvement of the participation level which went from 41 in 1991 to 53 in 1996.

If participation is not general for any regional groups, the Non aligned and other States group appears to be the one where it is lowest.

The quality of the declarations submitted is also very fluctuating. That is another issue that could be tackled.

The meaning of the two notions “nothing to declare” and “nothing new to declare” is moreover unclear and a redefinition would be useful. The repeated use of the box “nothing new to declare” is particularly confusing. It means -at least in theory- that the information has been delivered in a previous report. Therefore, in order to facilitate the research of information, it would be useful to ask States to specify when the data has been submitted, which has never been done for the time being.