




The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC):

Commerce's Role in Multilateral Work on Response, Cooperation, and Assistance during a Pandemic

VIRTUAL UPDATE CONFERENCE ON
EXPORT CONTROLS & POLICY

Partnering to Address 21st Century Export Control Challenges

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Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

- First multilateral disarmament treaty to prohibit an entire class of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- The BWC entered into force in 1975.
- As of today, the Convention has 182 States Parties (SP).
 - The United States does not recognize Palestine as a SP
- Implementation is reviewed every 5 years at Review Conferences– Upcoming 2022.
- During the intersessional four years, SP meet twice a year to consider ways to improve its implementation.



Intersessional Program Topics

- Cooperation and Assistance
- Reviewing Science & Technology
- National Implementation
- Assistance, response, and preparedness
- Institutional Strengthening

For further information about the U.S. Government concerns with a compliance protocol, please see the 2018 BWC MX presentation by Dr. Douglas Brown, Director, Treaty Compliance Division, BIS, located at:

<https://meetings.unoda.org/section/bwc-mx-2018-side-events/>



Article VII of the BWC

- Each State Party to this Convention undertakes to provide or support assistance, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to any Party to the Convention which so requests, if the Security Council decides that such Party has been exposed to danger as a result of violation of the Convention.

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Why not play *Pandemic*©?



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2022 Review Conference

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