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**OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AS AT 31 JULY 2023**



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report has been produced for the 104th Session of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) in response to decision C-14/DEC.12 (dated 4 December 2009), in which the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) invited the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to provide annual reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) for consideration by the Council and submission to the Conference. This report is also in response to the request of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Third Review Conference”) for the Secretariat to continue to submit its annual report on the implementation of Article VII to the Conference, and to include an assessment containing a comprehensive and objective analysis, with a view to tracking the progress made and the formulation of focused assistance programmes.
2. The reporting period is from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.
3. This report presents an overview of the status of and progress regarding legislative and administrative measures adopted by States Parties to implement their obligations under Article VII of the Convention. It presents the status of the initial measures to be adopted by all States Parties and the status of the additional measures to be adopted by States Parties possessing declarable chemical facilities.
4. The information is based on the responses received from States Parties to the note verbale sent by the Secretariat on 15 March 2023 requesting them to provide updates on the status of implementation of Article VII and to fill in the matrices attached to the note verbale. For States Parties that did not provide responses, their respective status, as indicated in previous reports, was generally left unchanged.
5. At the cut-off date of this report, 128 States Parties had replied to the note verbale, which is higher than the number of responses received last year. The number of responses received in recent years and active engagement with States Parties have enhanced the Secretariat’s understanding of the global status of implementation of Article VII, enabling it to clarify States Parties’ respective status of implementation, to conduct legal reviews, and to provide appropriate technical assistance.
6. The system for providing updates on the status of implementation of Article VII is based on self-reporting. The submissions of some States Parties reflected a less comprehensive status of implementation when compared to the information provided in previous reporting periods. The Secretariat reached out to these States Parties in order to ascertain their accurate status of implementation, following which some submissions were amended. These discrepancies may be attributed, in part, to the inadequacy of national knowledge management systems. Since the launch in 2020 of the online platform for the submission of updates on the status of implementation of Article VII, discrepancies and inconsistencies in the information provided by States Parties can be more readily identified and clarified.

7. Out of the 193 States Parties to the Convention, 161 have reported the adoption of national implementing legislation, of which 128 have legislation covering all the initial measures. Thirty-three States Parties have legislation covering some of the initial measures, while 32 States Parties have yet to adopt legislation and/or submit the information to the Secretariat.
8. Information with respect to additional measures pertaining to declarable industrial facilities has been received both from States Parties that possess industrial facilities declarable under the Convention and States Parties that have not reported on the possession of such facilities. Some States Parties that possess industrial facilities declarable under the Convention have yet to report on the adoption of additional measures. The Secretariat has made efforts to clarify discrepancies between the information received during this and previous reporting periods, and continues to engage with States Parties on this matter. At the cut-off date of this report, having considered all information available to the Secretariat, 119 States Parties had been categorised as having adopted one or more additional measures pertaining to declarable industrial facilities.
9. As required under paragraph 5 of Article VII of the Convention, 179 States Parties have submitted information to the Secretariat on the legislative and administrative measures they have taken to implement various aspects of the Convention, of which 157 States Parties have provided copies of the texts of some or all adopted measures.
10. In total, 192 States Parties have designated or established a National Authority, leaving one remaining State Party that has yet to do so.
11. The Secretariat continued to provide assistance in support of States Parties' efforts to develop and adopt national implementing legislation and to further enhance the capacities of National Authorities to discharge their duties through various programmes. Upon request by States Parties, the Secretariat reviewed the texts of draft legislation and newly enacted or existing legislation, to advise whether such texts comply with the requirements of the Convention. The Secretariat also provided advice and reviewed legal texts submitted by States Parties in regard to the implementation of the amendment to the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention (hereinafter "the Annex on Chemicals"). Furthermore, the Secretariat conducted consultations with States Parties that have yet to adopt legislation covering all the initial measures to ascertain their progress, offering support as appropriate.
12. The Secretariat organised three sessions of the national legislative review forum, during which States Parties assessed their respective national legislative and administrative frameworks on the Convention and identified gaps and discussed possible approaches to address them. The Secretariat conducted two workshops on best practices related to formulating legislation on chemical security, which provided a forum for discussing approaches in the development of chemical security measures. The Secretariat also facilitated bilateral cooperation between States Parties, including through the Mentorship/Partnership Programme for National Authorities. Exchanges and discussions regarding two new partnerships under this Programme took place during the reporting period, involving four States Parties.
13. The Secretariat continued to monitor and follow up with States Parties on the fulfilment of their obligations under Article VII of the Convention. This was done by referring to indicative road maps developed by respective States Parties, through targeted outreach and communication, as well as through bilateral follow-up activities.

B. INTRODUCTION

14. At its Fourteenth Session (30 November to 4 December 2009), the Conference adopted a decision on “National Implementation Measures of Article VII Obligations” (C-14/DEC.12), in which it invited the Secretariat to, inter alia, compile two concurrent annual reports on the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention and requested the Secretariat to provide those annual reports to the Council. The Council was invited to consider and submit these reports to the Conference, together with its recommendations, as appropriate.
15. The Third Review Conference (8 to 19 April 2013) “[e]ncouraged the Secretariat to explore innovative methods of providing assistance on tailor-made approaches as a potential means to further advance the implementation of Article VII”.¹ Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested “to continue to submit its annual report on the implementation of Article VII to the Conference” and to “include an assessment in this report, for consideration by the policy-making organs, containing a comprehensive and objective analysis of the current status of national implementation, with a view to tracking the progress made and formulation of focused assistance programmes”.²
16. In 2013, States Parties agreed on a new set of criteria to be used by the Secretariat to monitor the status of implementation of the Convention, as the old criteria were considered obsolete and ineffective. The “initial measures” comprise the minimum set of legislative measures deemed necessary for a non-possessor State Party that has no declarable chemical production facility on its territory. They pertain to:
 - (a) definitions under the Convention;
 - (b) a comprehensive control regime for scheduled and toxic chemicals and reporting on transfers (import and export) of scheduled chemicals;
 - (c) prohibited actions and activities;
 - (d) penalties for violations of the law;
 - (e) extraterritorial application of penal legislation;
 - (f) a legal basis for developing implementing regulations; and
 - (g) the establishment of a National Authority.
17. In accordance with the Convention, possessor States and States Parties that have declarable chemical production facilities must also implement additional measures. The required measures depend on each State Party’s specific profile and circumstances.
18. These criteria were first used in the annual reports on the implementation of Article VII in 2013, and have been used for all subsequent reports from 2014 to 2022. The criteria are aimed at providing a more comprehensive and objective overview of the implementation of Article VII of the Convention by States Parties and serve as guidance

¹ Subparagraph 9.103(c) of RC-3/3* (dated 19 April 2013).

² Subparagraph 9.103(h) of RC-3/3*.

to the Secretariat in planning and providing specific technical assistance to requesting States Parties, thus moving from a “one-size-fits-all” to a “tailor-made” approach. This has already had a favourable impact on national implementation of Article VII.

19. Based on these criteria, the Secretariat assesses the status of implementation of the initial measures by States Parties. Considering all the information available to the Secretariat, States Parties are categorised as having: (i) legislation that covers all initial measures; (ii) legislation that covers some initial measures; or (iii) no legislation. The Secretariat also indicates whether there is information available about the ongoing development and consideration of draft legislation in each State Party. The overall status of implementation of the initial measures by each State Party as of 31 July 2023 is indicated in Section D and in the Annex to this report.
20. Pursuant to the request received from the Third Review Conference, the Secretariat sent a note verbale on 15 March 2023 to all States Parties requesting them to provide updates on the status of implementation of Article VII and to fill in the matrices attached to the note verbale. Based on the responses received, the Secretariat has updated the two matrices included in the annual reports—the first addressing the initial measures taken by States Parties in accordance with Article VII and the second listing additional measures. As requested by the Conference in paragraph 8 of C-14/DEC.12, the Secretariat is presenting this information in two concurrent reports: EC-104/DG.9 C-28/DG.8, (dated 6 September 2023) for initial measures, and EC-104/DG.10 C-28/DG.9 (dated 6 September 2023) for additional measures.
21. In order to assess the overall status of implementation of the initial measures, the Secretariat considered the submissions made by States Parties during this reporting period, as well as previous submissions and assessments. The Secretariat sought clarifications from States Parties when necessary, and in particular to resolve discrepancies and inconsistencies in reported changes in order to accurately reflect their status of implementation.
22. A few States Parties have reiterated the challenges they encountered in assessing their status of national implementation and providing information to the Secretariat, including limited human resources, staff turnover, and inadequate institutional knowledge management systems and technical expertise. The Secretariat provided guidance to States Parties, where possible.
23. The Secretariat continued to experience challenges in receiving updates from a number of States Parties. Notably, of the 32 States Parties that have not yet reported on having adopted implementing legislation, only 9 (28%) responded to the note verbale circulated by the Secretariat. Critically, among the States Parties that were identified in 2022 as not yet having developed drafts of national implementing legislation, only one State Party provided updated information. Furthermore, some States that had informed the Secretariat of the existence of draft legislation under development and consideration did not provide updates during this reporting cycle.
24. This report provides an overview of the status and progress regarding legislative and administrative measures adopted by States Parties to implement their obligations under Article VII of the Convention. It considers information included in the two concurrent reports (EC-104/DG.9 C-28/DG.8 and EC-104/DG.10 C-28/DG.9) on the steps taken by

States Parties to implement their obligations under Article VII, by presenting the status of the initial measures to be adopted by all States Parties and the status of the additional measures to be adopted by States Parties possessing declarable chemical facilities.

25. The Director-General is pleased to submit this report, which provides a global overview of the status of implementation of obligations under Article VII of the Convention, to the Council for its consideration and action. The reporting period for this document is 1 August 2022, the date following the cut-off date for the last annual reports on the status of implementation as submitted to the Council at its 101st Session and to the Conference at its Twenty-Seventh Session,³ to 31 July 2023, the cut-off date for this and the two concurrent reports mentioned in the paragraph above.

C. OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION

Global overview of implementation

26. The Secretariat continues to clarify the status of implementation of Article VII by States Parties. At the end of the reporting period:

- (a) A total of 161 of the 193 States Parties (83%) had reported the adoption of national implementing legislation to the Secretariat:
 - (i) 128 of the States Parties (66%) have legislation that covers all the initial measures required under the Convention.
 - (ii) 33 of the States Parties (17%) have legislation that covers some of the initial measures.

The Secretariat continues to work with these States Parties to address gaps in their implementing legislation and to promote full implementation of all the initial measures.

- (b) The remaining 32 of the 193 States Parties (17%) had either not submitted information on the adoption of national implementing legislation or had reported that legislation was yet to be adopted. The Secretariat continues to engage with these States Parties to support their efforts in the adoption of legislation and in the submission of information.
- (c) On the basis of all information available to the Secretariat, 119 States Parties have been categorised as having adopted one or more of the additional implementing measures that are required under the Convention pertaining to declarable industrial facilities. This category includes States Parties that possess such industrial facilities, as well as some States Parties that have adopted such measures despite not having reported on the possession of such facilities. The Secretariat continues to engage with all States Parties to address persisting discrepancies and to clarify their status of implementation in respect of the additional measures required under the Convention.

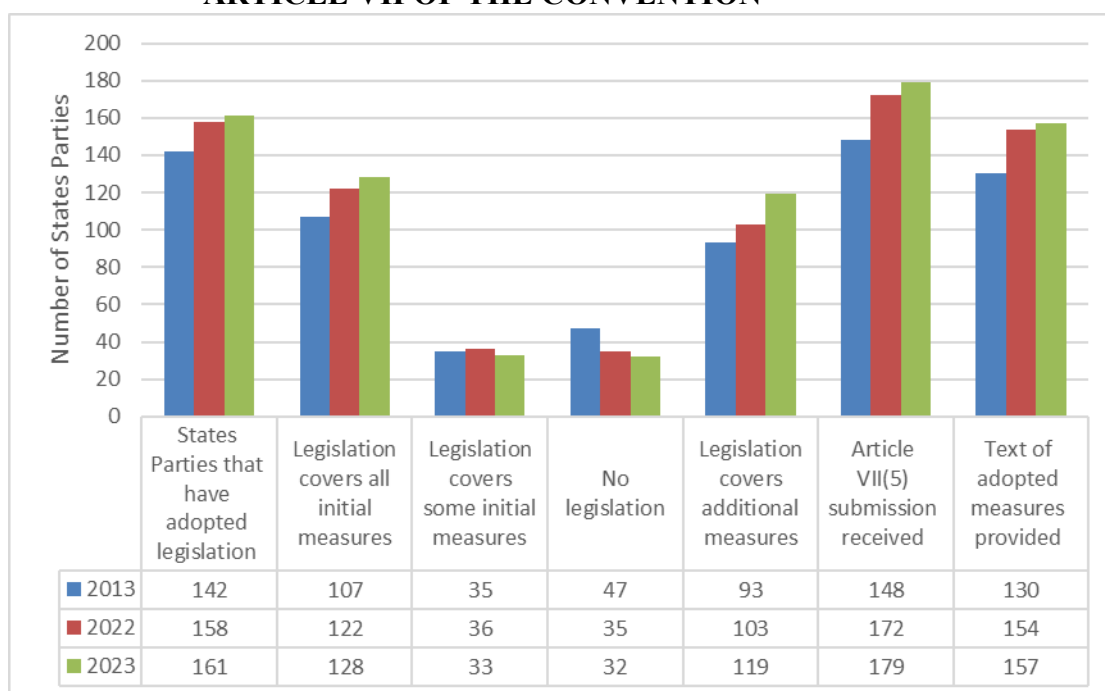
³

EC-101/DG.13* C-27/DG.9 (dated 9 September 2022) and Add.1 (dated 3 October 2022); EC-101/DG.14 C-27/DG.10 (dated 12 September 2022); and EC-101/DG.16 C-27/DG.12 (dated 15 September 2022).

- (d) With respect to the Article VII(5) obligations to inform the Secretariat of the legislative and administrative measures taken to implement various aspects of the Convention, 179 of the 193 States Parties (93%) had submitted information to the Secretariat on the adoption of those measures and/or on the measures yet to be adopted. Among them, 157 States Parties (81%) provided a copy of the text of some or all adopted measures.

27. An overview of the status of implementation of Article VII as at 31 July 2023 is provided in Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION



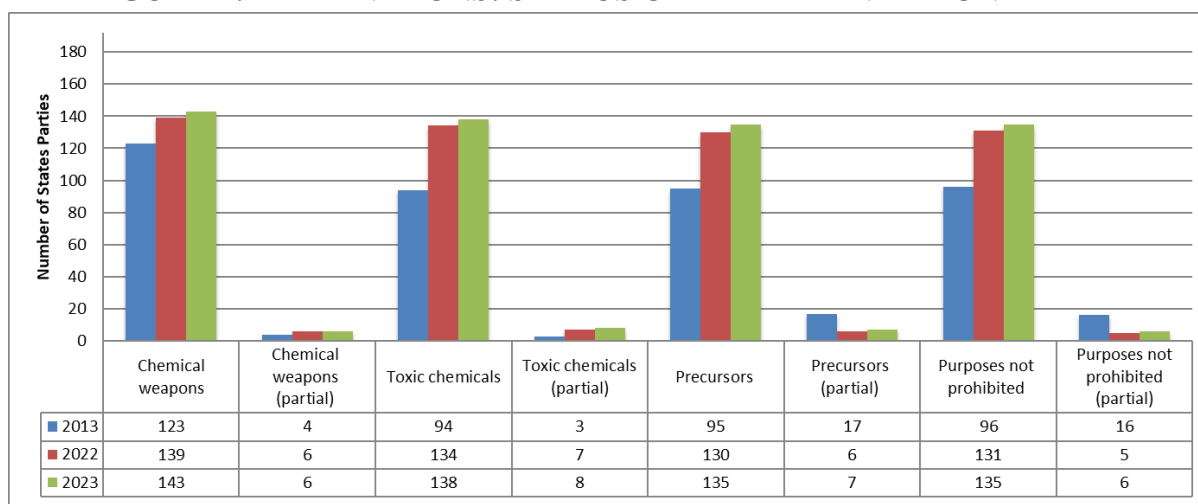
Status of implementation of the initial measures

28. Since the new set of criteria to be used by the Secretariat to monitor the status of implementation of the Convention was agreed upon in 2013, States Parties have made substantial progress in respect of each of the initial measures. This is reflected in Figures 2 to 5 below, which are discussed in further detail in the following paragraphs.
29. National implementing legislation should contain definitions of relevant terms in order to establish a link between the Convention and the provisions of the legislation.
30. Based on the Secretariat's interaction with some States Parties and the preliminary legal review it has undertaken, some States Parties are unable to incorporate all of the definitions into the texts of their laws or regulations. This is either due to their legal drafting style, or to the fact that the legal text is omnibus and does not exclusively relate to the Convention, for example a penal code that contains all acts that are penalised within the State Party's jurisdiction. In some cases, the legal texts of some States Parties contain a catch-all provision stating that the definitions embodied in international agreements to which they are party shall have the same meaning in domestic laws.

In the absence of any such reference, the Secretariat has sought an explanation from States Parties on how they regard definitions of terms that are contained in treaties or international agreements in their domestic legal framework. The Secretariat has analysed the situation of these States Parties in order to arrive at a reasonable determination of their status of implementation of these measures.

31. Figure 2 below contains the terms defined in Article II of the Convention that should be incorporated in national implementing measures, indicating the number of States Parties that have done so and the evolution of the situation since 2013.

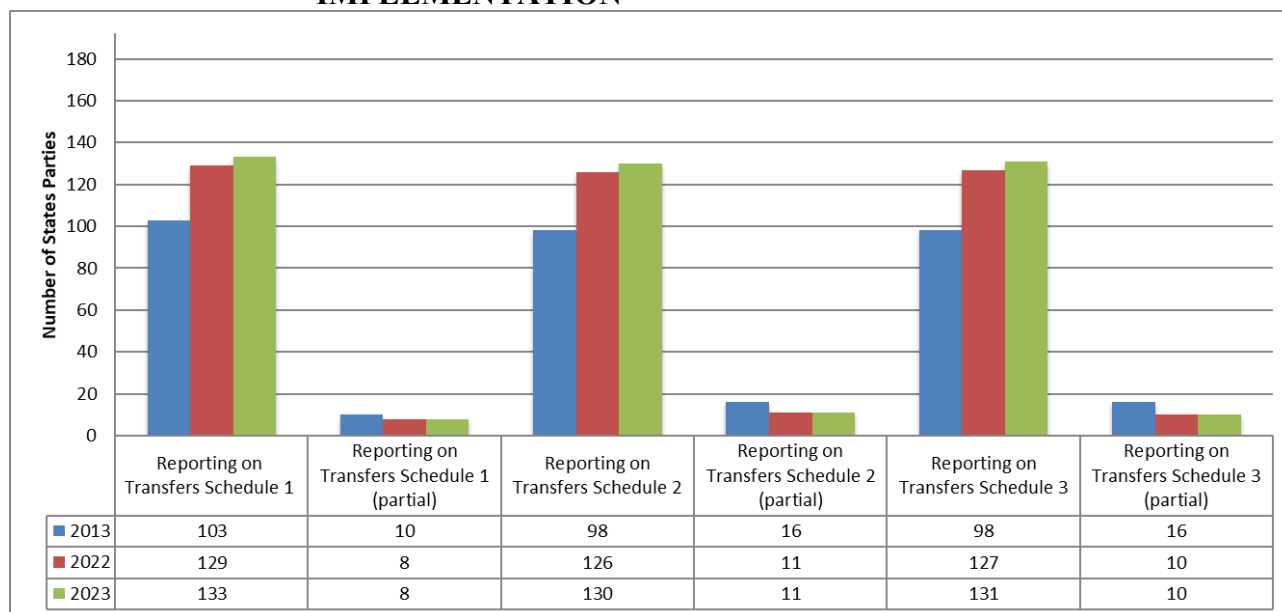
FIGURE 2: DEFINITIONS: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION



32. The establishment of a control regime for scheduled chemicals is required under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Convention, obliging each State Party to “adopt the necessary measures to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are only developed, produced, otherwise acquired, retained, transferred, or used within its territory or in any other place under its jurisdiction or control for purposes not prohibited under this Convention”. The national legislation should ensure that the State Party is in a position to:
- fulfil the prior reporting requirements concerning transfers of Schedule 1 chemicals under paragraphs 5 and 5bis of Part VI of the Verification Annex to the Convention (hereinafter “the Verification Annex”), and to provide all information that is to be included in the declaration required by paragraph 6 of Part VI of the Verification Annex and that a sanction is applicable in the event of non-compliance by natural and legal persons;
 - provide all transfer-related information that is to be included in annual declarations required by paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part VII of the Verification Annex and that a sanction is applicable in the event of non-compliance by natural and legal persons; and
 - provide all transfer-related information that is to be included in declarations pursuant to paragraph 1 of Part VIII of the Verification Annex and that a sanction is applicable in the event of non-compliance by natural and legal persons.

33. Figure 3 below reflects the number of States Parties that have established a control regime for scheduled chemicals and shows the evolution of the situation since 2013.

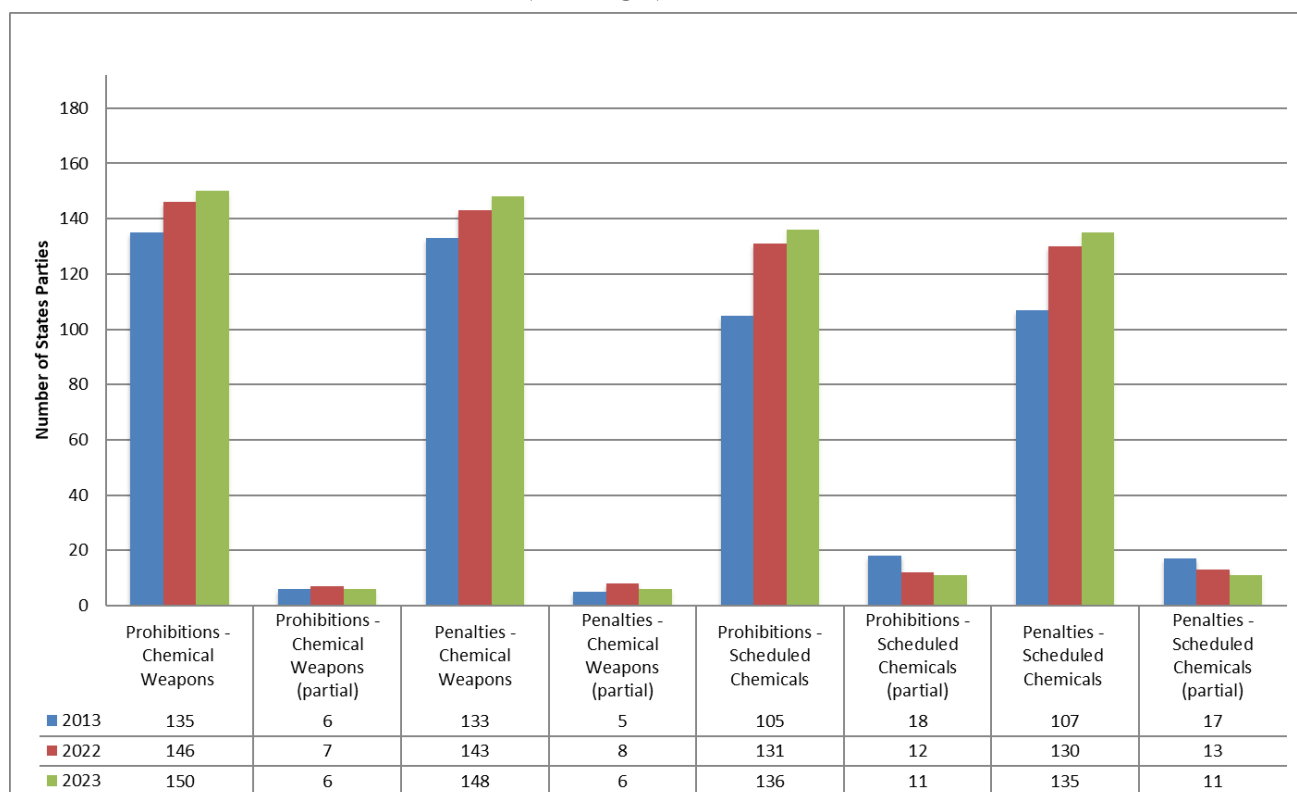
FIGURE 3: SCHEDULED CHEMICALS REGIME: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION



34. National implementing legislation should indicate that:
- (a) the activities prohibited to States Parties under paragraph 1 of Article I of the Convention are prohibited by that State Party to natural and legal persons in accordance with subparagraph 1(a) of Article VII, and that penal sanctions are applicable in the event of violation of the above prohibitions; and
 - (b) the activities prohibited to States Parties under paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Part VI of the Verification Annex (Schedule 1-related), paragraph 31 of Part VII of the Verification Annex (Schedule 2-related),⁴ and paragraph 26 of Part VIII of the Verification Annex (i.e., the export of Schedule 3 chemicals to States not Party without appropriate assurance that they will only be used for purposes not prohibited under the Convention)⁵ are prohibited by that State Party to natural and legal persons in accordance with subparagraph 1(a) of Article VII, and that penal sanctions are applicable in the event of violation of the above prohibitions.
35. Figure 4 below reflects the number of States Parties that have incorporated the prohibitions and penalties in their national implementing measures and shows the evolution of the situation since 2013.

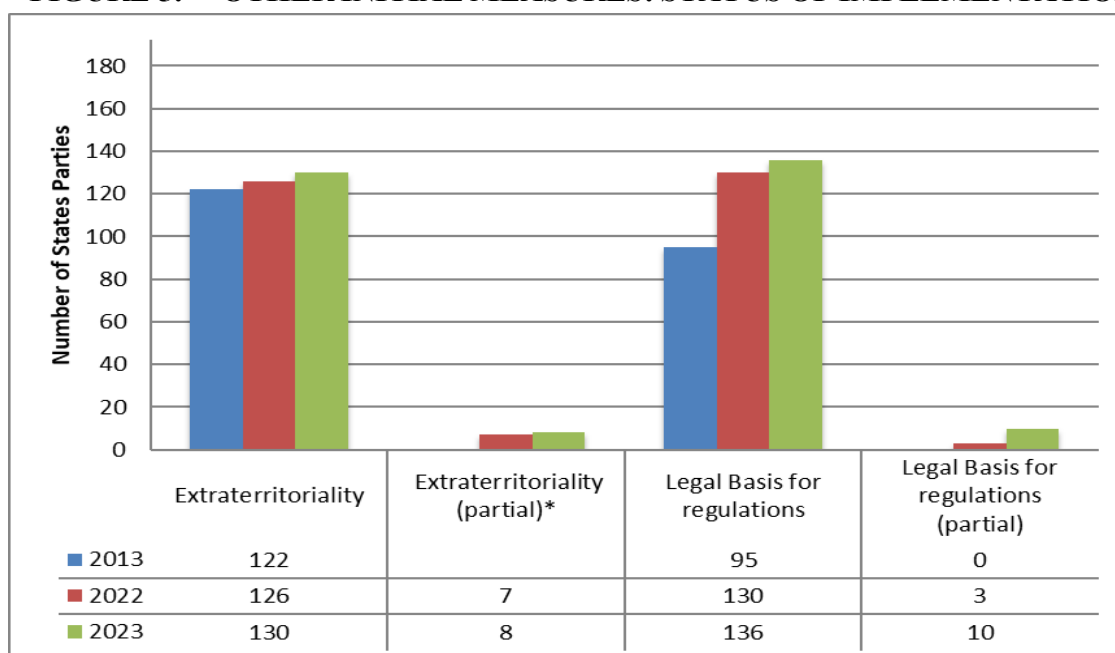
⁴ For exceptions, please refer to C-V/DEC.16 (dated 17 May 2000).

⁵ For exceptions, please refer to C-VI/DEC.10 (dated 17 May 2001).

FIGURE 4: PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

36. States Parties are obliged to implement other initial measures under the Convention. Under subparagraph 1(c) of Article VII, a State Party shall extend its penal legislation enacted to impose the prohibitions of the Convention on any activity undertaken anywhere by natural persons possessing its nationality. Further, the implementing legislation should also contain provisions that enable the relevant ministries and governmental departments to issue measures to regulate the production, processing, and consumption of scheduled chemicals, the verification regimes, and the confidentiality regimes.
37. Figure 5 below reflects the number of States Parties that have adopted implementing measures on the extraterritorial application of their relevant penal legislation and the legal basis for regulations, and shows the evolution of the situation since 2013. In respect of these measures, submissions by a few States Parties showed discrepancies with the information previously made available to the Secretariat. The Secretariat has made efforts to engage with those States to clarify and resolve potential discrepancies.

FIGURE 5: OTHER INITIAL MEASURES: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

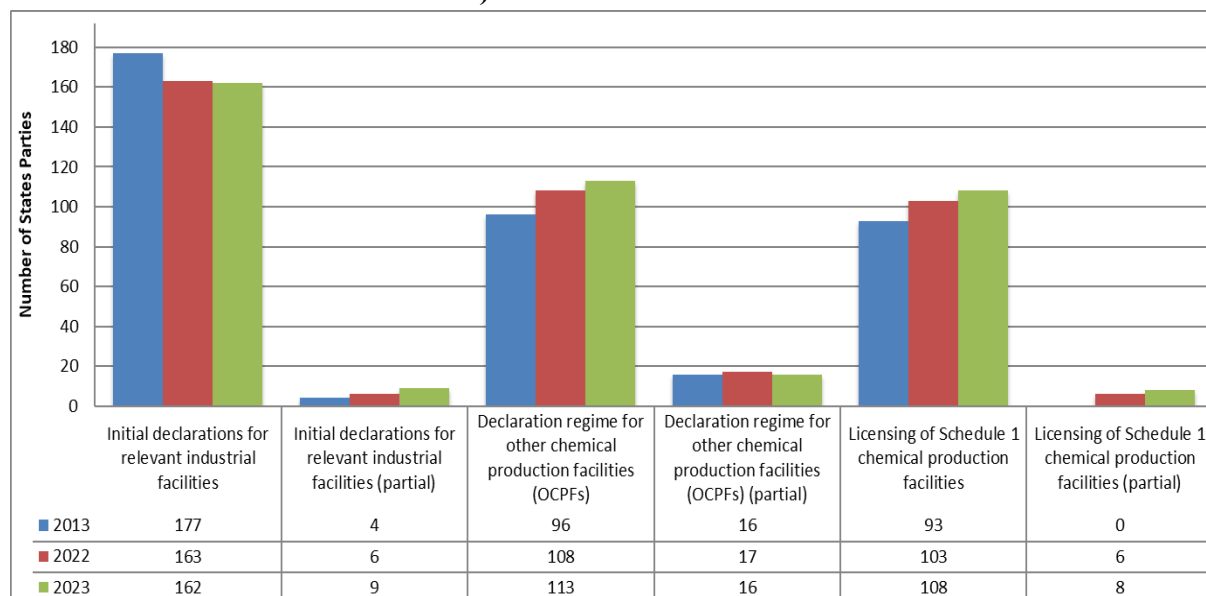


* Figures for 2013 not available.

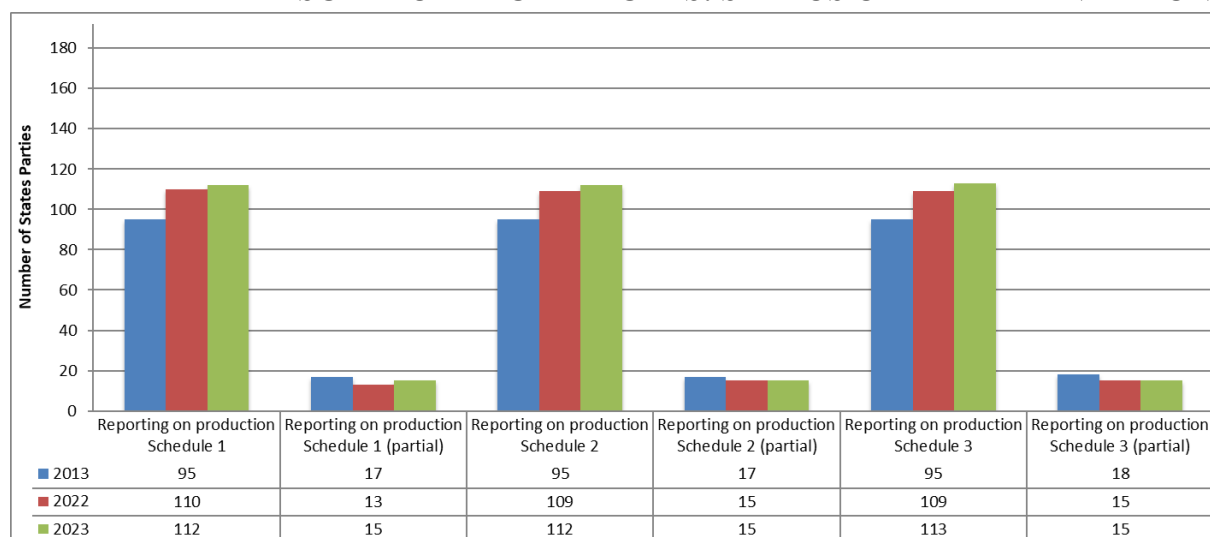
Status of implementation of additional measures for States Parties that possess industrial facilities which are declarable under the Convention

38. The Secretariat also continues to clarify the status of adoption and implementation of the additional measures that are required under the Convention from States Parties with declarable industrial facilities. Information on additional measures has been received both from States Parties that possess declarable industrial facilities and States Parties that have not reported on the possession of such facilities but have nonetheless adopted measures. On the other hand, some States Parties that possess declarable industrial facilities have yet to report on the adoption of additional measures.
39. National implementing legislation or regulations must ensure that the State Party is in a position to provide all information required for the initial declarations for relevant industrial facilities as required under Article VI of the Convention, as well as all information required for the declaration with respect to other chemical production facilities, pursuant to paragraph 1 of Part IX of the Verification Annex and any update of that information (paragraph 3 of Part IX of the Verification Annex). National implementing legislation or regulations must also establish licensing requirements in line with paragraphs 8, 9, 10, and 11 of Part VI of the Verification Annex.
40. Figure 6 below shows the number of States Parties that have reported the adoption of a control regime for initial declarations, a declaration regime for other chemical production facilities and licensing of chemical production facilities, as well as the evolution of the situation since 2013.

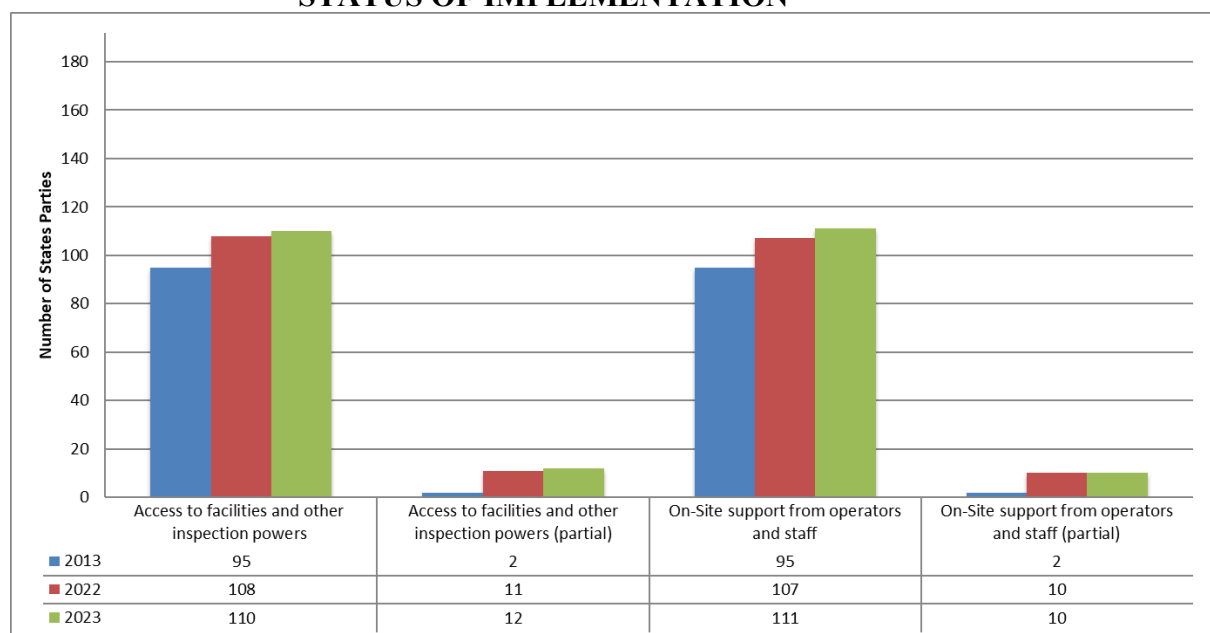
FIGURE 6: CONTROL REGIME FOR DECLARATIONS AND LICENSING OF RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES (INCLUDING PENALTIES): STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION



41. National implementing legislation or regulations must ensure that the State Party is in a position to fulfil the reporting requirements concerning:
 - (a) production of Schedule 1 chemicals, as required under section D of Part VI of the Verification Annex;
 - (b) production, processing, and consumption of Schedule 2 chemicals, as required under section A of Part VII of the Verification Annex; and
 - (c) production of Schedule 3 chemicals, as required under section A of Part VIII of the Verification Annex.
42. Figure 7 below shows the number of States Parties that have reported the adoption of implementing measures for reporting on the production of scheduled chemicals, as well as the evolution of the situation since 2013.

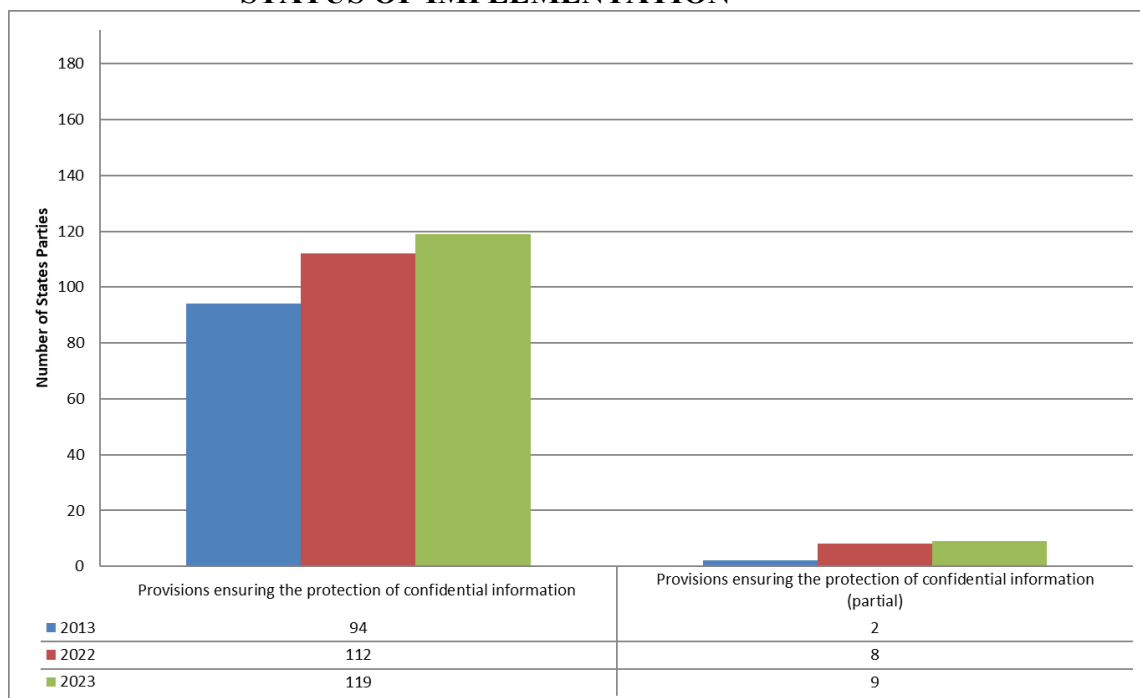
FIGURE 7: CONTROL REGIME FOR REPORTING ON PRODUCTION OF SCHEDULED CHEMICALS: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

43. National implementing legislation or regulations must ensure that the State Party is in a position to warrant OPCW inspectors' access to the relevant facilities during the execution of inspection activities (including challenge inspections), pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Convention, and to ensure support from operators and staff of relevant facilities during the execution of such inspection activities.
44. Figure 8 below shows the number of States Parties that have reported the adoption of a verification regime, as well as the evolution of the situation since 2013.

FIGURE 8: VERIFICATION REGIME (INCLUDING PENALTIES): STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

45. National implementing legislation or regulations must ensure the protection of confidentiality, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Convention. Figure 9 below shows the number of States Parties that have reported the adoption of a confidentiality regime, as well as the evolution of the situation since 2013.

FIGURE 9: CONFIDENTIALITY REGIME (INCLUDING PENALTIES): STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION



Designation or establishment of National Authorities

46. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article VII of the Convention, States Parties are required to designate or establish a National Authority to serve as the national focal point for effective liaison with the OPCW and other States Parties. On a number of occasions, the Conference has recalled the importance of this obligation and has urged States Parties that have not yet done so to designate or establish their National Authority (paragraph 1 of C-14/DEC.12).
47. In all, 192 out of 193 States Parties have complied with this requirement. Somalia is the remaining State Party that has yet to designate or appoint a National Authority. The Secretariat continues to actively reach out to Somalia to encourage it to meet this requirement and to provide any necessary assistance.

Article VII(5) submissions

48. According to paragraph 5 of Article VII, each State Party shall inform the Secretariat of the legislative and administrative measures taken to implement the Convention. The same principle was reiterated by the Conference in its decision C-14/DEC.12, in which the Conference strongly reaffirmed the obligation of each State Party to adopt the necessary measures to implement its obligations under the Convention—in accordance with its constitutional processes—and urged States Parties to inform the Secretariat on an ongoing basis, as appropriate, with regard to the steps they are taking in this regard (subparagraph 1(b) of C-14/DEC.12).

49. At the cut-off date of this report, 179 of the 193 States Parties (93%) had made submissions to the Secretariat on their status of implementation, reporting on the adoption of implementing measures and/or on the measures yet to be adopted.
50. In decision C-8/DEC.16 (dated 24 October 2003), the Conference requested that States Parties provide the Secretariat with the full text of their national implementing legislation or regulations, including updates. During the reporting period, three States Parties (Djibouti, Nauru, and Nicaragua), submitted texts of implementing legislation for the first time. Therefore, the number of States Parties that have submitted some or all texts of their implementing legislation increased to 157 (81%).
51. At the cut-off date of this report, 18 States Parties⁶ that had previously provided texts of certain measures made additional submissions (for example, new or updated legislation) under Article VII(5), including with respect to measures adopted to implement the changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals which entered into force on 7 June 2020 (see paragraphs 53 to 57 below).
52. A number of States Parties continue to inform the Secretariat that they do not yet have a comprehensive overview of their country's domestic legal framework on the Convention, in particular the laws and regulations that are relevant to national implementation of the Convention. The lack of effective national coordination mechanisms remains a crucial factor, as the National Authority may not be informed by relevant ministries and agencies of updates in this regard. The Secretariat continues to provide technical assistance, upon request and where possible, to States Parties in undertaking an inventory of their legal and administrative measures that are relevant to national implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat continues to engage with States Parties to address remaining discrepancies in the information reported.

Amendments to the Annex on Chemicals

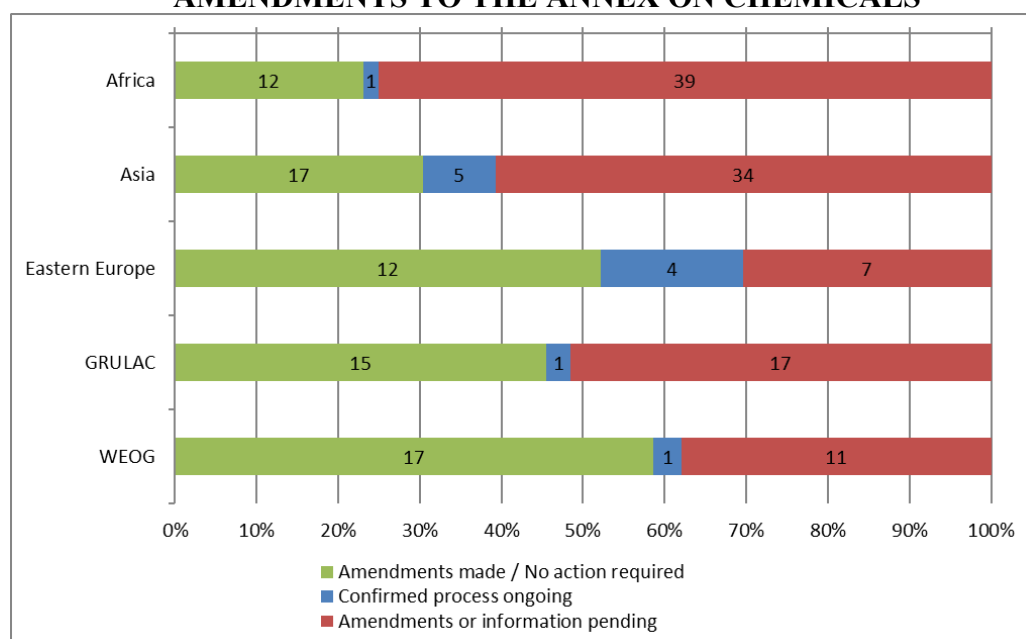
53. At its Twenty-Fourth Session, the Conference adopted two decisions (C-24/DEC.4 and C-24/DEC.5, both dated 27 November 2019) in which it approved, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article XV of the Convention, certain changes to Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals. Pursuant to subparagraph 5(g) of Article XV of the Convention, the changes to the Annex on Chemicals entered into force for all States Parties on 7 June 2020, which was 180 days after the Director-General notified all States Parties of the aforementioned decision through note verbale NV/ODG/221841/19 (dated 10 December 2019).
54. The Secretariat continued to reach out to States Parties to clarify their respective constitutional and legal processes to implement the changes to Schedule 1, and to inquire whether they had initiated or completed the necessary actions, if any, to give

⁶ Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Iraq, Jordan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Suriname, Togo, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

effect to the amendments.⁷ During the reporting period, the Secretariat received information on these questions from 71 States Parties.

55. At the cut-off date of this report, according to the information available to the Secretariat, in 73 of the 193 States Parties (38%), the changes to Schedule 1 had been implemented through amendments to the relevant legal framework or had been implemented automatically, without amendments being required. In 12 States Parties (6%), there were ongoing processes to adopt the required amendments.
56. The remaining 108 States Parties (56%) include States that have yet to adopt amendments or to inform the Secretariat of their status of implementation in respect of the changes to Schedule 1. This category encompasses all States that have yet to adopt any legislation covering the initial measures. The Secretariat continues to engage with these States and to provide technical assistance, when required, for changes to Schedule 1 to be included in their draft legislation.
57. Figure 10 below shows the status of implementation of the changes to Schedule 1, divided by regional group, according to the responses received by the Secretariat as at the cut-off date of this report.

FIGURE 10: ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX ON CHEMICALS



⁷

Following the decisions of the Conference, the Secretariat undertook a preliminary review of the legislative frameworks of States Parties to determine how they reference the Annex on Chemicals in their respective laws and regulations. For States Parties that had yet to adopt national implementing legislation but already had draft legal texts pending government consideration, the Secretariat also assessed how they had incorporated the schedules of chemicals into their respective draft laws. Based on the results of this preliminary review, there were at least four modalities by which States Parties referenced the Annex on Chemicals, namely: by annexation of the schedules of chemicals into the national implementing law; by annexation into regulations or administrative directives; by inclusion of the schedules of chemicals in national control lists of chemicals or dual use items; and, lastly, by direct reference to the schedules of chemicals as listed in the Annex on Chemicals as annexed to the Convention.

Status of the legislative process in States Parties

58. States Parties, in particular those that have not yet adopted implementing legislation covering all initial measures, continue to provide the Secretariat with information on their legislative and administrative processes. The compilation and submission of that information, however, is affected by the inadequacy of institutional knowledge management systems and other challenges encountered by some States Parties. As a result, some of the information available to and considered by the Secretariat was from previous reporting periods.
59. As at the cut-off date of this report, 32 States Parties had yet to adopt implementing legislation and/or to submit the information to the Secretariat, while 33 States Parties had reported on the adoption of legislation covering only some of the initial measures (see Figure 1 above). Nonetheless, according to the information available to the Secretariat, in 61 of these 65 States Parties draft legislation is currently under development and consideration. The other four States Parties⁸ have either not yet started developing and considering draft legislation or have not provided updated information to the Secretariat on the status of their legislative processes.

Analysis

60. The Secretariat received 128 responses in response to its note verbale requesting updates on the status of implementation of Article VII. This is higher than the number of responses received in previous years (namely, 105 in 2022 and 2021, 104 in 2020, 127 in 2019, 118 in 2017, 89 in 2016, and 53 in 2015 and 2014), except in comparison to the 130 submissions received in 2018.
61. The Secretariat has maintained its engagement with States Parties to clarify their status of implementation of Article VII. In this way, the Secretariat continued to enhance its understanding of the global status of implementation of Article VII—enabling it to clarify potential inaccuracies and discrepancies in the submissions, to conduct targeted reviews of draft legislation accordingly, and to provide appropriate technical assistance.
62. The gradual increase in the use of the online platform for the submission of updates on the status of implementation of Article VII since 2020 is yielding positive results. As information submitted in previous years can be accessed through the platform and then compared with the updates, discrepancies and inconsistencies in the information provided by States Parties can be more readily identified and clarified. The platform is therefore proving its utility as a complementary institutional knowledge management tool for States Parties, and its use will continue to be promoted and facilitated.
63. At the cut-off date of this report, 128 States Parties had reported having legislation covering all initial measures. Of the remaining 65 States Parties, 33 had reported having legislation covering some of the initial measures, and 32 had yet to submit information on the adoption of national implementing legislation or reported that legislation was yet to be adopted.

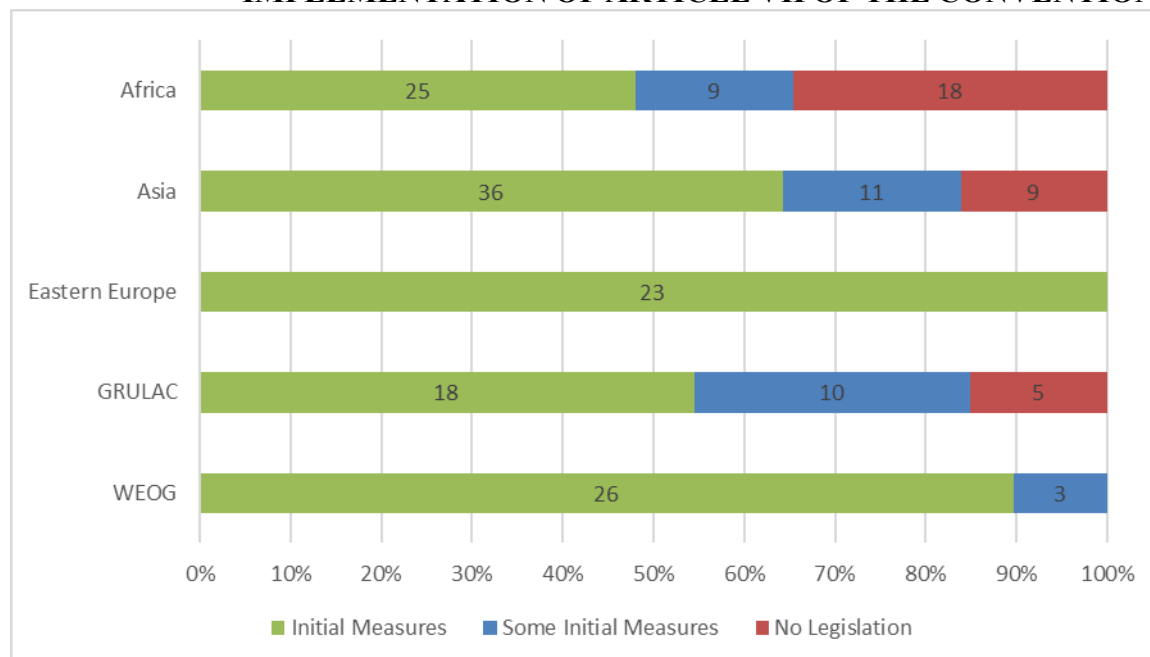
⁸ Andorra, Eritrea, Papua New Guinea, and Rwanda.

64. The number of States Parties that have reported the enactment of penal legislation containing the requisite prohibitions and penalties that will enable them to prosecute perpetrators of Convention-related offences at the domestic level is higher than the number of States Parties that have reported the enactment of legislation covering all required initial measures. A total of 150 States Parties have reported the enactment of laws fully implementing the prohibitions on chemical weapons under paragraph 1 of Article I of the Convention, while 148 States Parties have reported the full implementation of applicable penal sanctions in the event of a violation of the prohibitions. In addition, 136 States Parties have reported the full implementation of the prohibitions in the Verification Annex pertaining to scheduled chemicals, while 135 States Parties have reported the full implementation of applicable penal sanctions in the event of a violation of those prohibitions.
65. The Secretariat continued to work with States Parties in realising the full and effective implementation of Article VII of the Convention. This included reaching out to States Parties that have yet to develop and consider draft legislation; working with States Parties that have developed draft texts in following through with the respective national legislative adoption process; as well as reviewing the existing or draft domestic legal and regulatory frameworks upon request.
66. Adoption of national legislation is a time-consuming and challenging process that requires the full engagement of all relevant stakeholders. The reasons why States Parties have not yet adopted national implementing legislation vary. In some countries, adoption of the legislation is considered a lower priority in view of other pressing issues. In other countries, there may be lack of agreement, coordination, or awareness among the relevant stakeholders about the adoption process. In several countries, frequent staff turnover along with the absence of efficient knowledge management systems hamper follow-up to the adoption process. Finally, a few countries report a lack of adequate domestic technical expertise to prepare the relevant draft legislation.
67. The National Authority plays a crucial role in the legislative adoption process—primarily by facilitating the preparation of the draft text, coordinating stakeholder consultations and liaising with relevant ministries and agencies, providing clarifications when required, facilitating the inclusion of the draft law in the legislative agenda, and providing information to the Secretariat on the adoption of measures pursuant to Article VII(5) of the Convention. The National Authority's commitment throughout this process is essential and its engagement with the Secretariat continues to be strongly promoted.

D. REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION

68. While 26 years have passed since entry into force of the Convention, only 128 out of the 193 States Parties have legislation covering all initial measures. A total of 65 States Parties have yet to adopt legislation covering all initial measures, comprising: 27 of 52 States Parties in Africa; 20 of 56 States Parties in Asia; 15 of 33 States Parties in the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC); and three of 29 States Parties in the Group of Western European and Other States (WEOG) (see Figure 11 below). Out of the above-mentioned 65 States Parties, 33 have legislation covering some of the initial measures, while 32 have yet to submit information on the adoption of legislation and/or have reported that legislation has yet to be adopted.

FIGURE 11: REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION

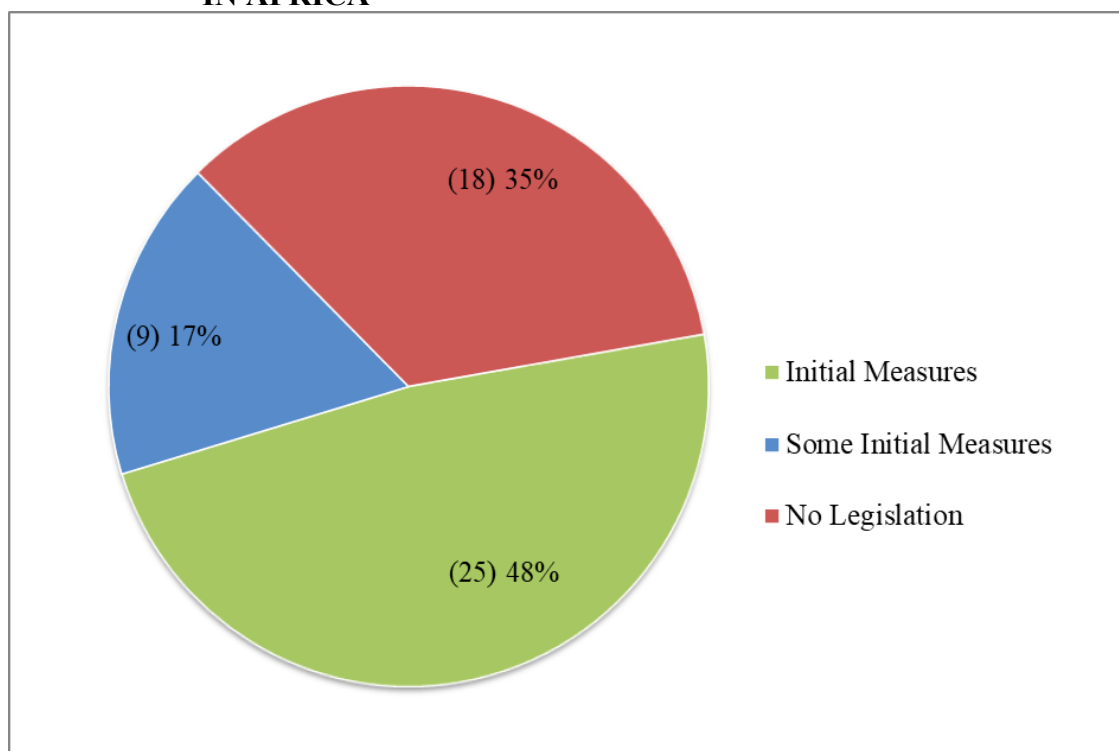


Africa

Status of implementation of Article VII

69. According to the information available to the Secretariat, as at the cut-off date of this report, the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention in Africa was as follows (see also Figure 12 below):
- (a) Twenty-five States Parties (48%) had adopted legislation covering all initial measures (Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia).
 - (b) Nine States Parties (17%) had adopted legislation that covers some of the initial measures (Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, and Zimbabwe).
 - (c) Eighteen States Parties (35%) had yet to submit information on the adoption of implementing legislation and/or had reported that legislation has yet to be adopted (Benin, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and the United Republic of Tanzania).

FIGURE 12: OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION BY STATES PARTIES IN AFRICA



Article VII(5) submissions

70. As at 31 July 2023, 43 African States Parties (83%) had made at least one submission, while the remaining nine States Parties (17%) had not made any Article VII(5) submission (Benin, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Somalia, and the United Republic of Tanzania).

Updates during the reporting period

71. During the reporting period, 28 States Parties in Africa provided updates to the Secretariat on the steps they had taken towards the implementation of Article VII of the Convention (Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, South Africa, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe).

Status of the legislative process

72. Following consideration of their latest submissions and a review of the information available to the Secretariat on their respective national legal frameworks on the Convention, the status of the national implementing legislation of Djibouti and of Togo has been recorded as covering all initial measures.

73. According to the information available to the Secretariat, at the cut-off date of this report, 24 States Parties in Africa had reported on the existence of draft legislation under development and consideration (Angola, Benin, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe). Mozambique reported that the draft legislation previously developed is no longer under consideration and that it would begin a new drafting process. Two States Parties (Eritrea and Rwanda) had not yet begun to develop a draft. The Secretariat continues to encourage these States Parties to participate in the legislative assistance programmes.

Technical assistance and support

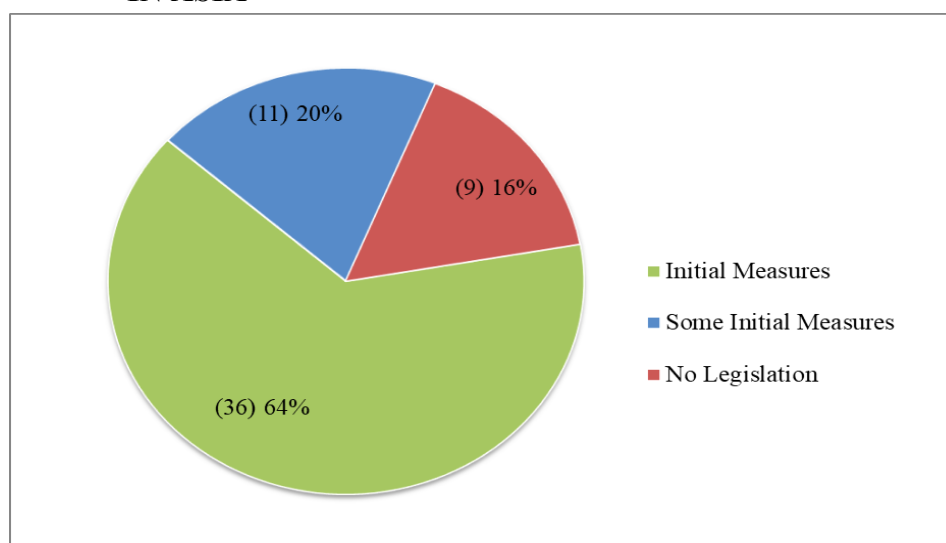
74. Under the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention, a number of States Parties in Africa received technical assistance from the Secretariat in developing, reviewing, or finalising their draft legislative texts, several of which are pending consideration by relevant government entities. The Secretariat continued to monitor progress in the adoption process and to follow up with respective States Parties and provide them with advice.

Asia

Status of implementation of Article VII

75. According to the information available to the Secretariat, as at the cut-off date of this report, the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention in Asia was as follows (see also Figure 13 below):
- (a) Thirty-six States Parties (64%) had adopted legislation covering all initial measures (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the Cook Islands, Cyprus, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, and Yemen).
 - (b) Eleven States Parties (20%) had adopted legislation that covers some of the initial measures (Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Kuwait, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, the State of Palestine, and Timor-Leste).
 - (c) Nine States Parties (16%) had yet to submit information on the adoption of implementing legislation and/or had reported that legislation has yet to be adopted (Afghanistan, Lebanon, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu).

FIGURE 13: OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION BY STATES PARTIES IN ASIA



Article VII(5) submissions

76. As at 31 July 2023, 54 States Parties (96%) had made at least one Article VII(5) submission, while the remaining two States Parties (4%) had not made any Article VII(5) submission (Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu).

Updates during the reporting period

77. During the reporting period, 34 States Parties provided updates to the Secretariat on the steps they had taken towards the implementation of Article VII of the Convention (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, and Yemen).

Status of the legislative process

78. Following consideration of their latest submissions and a review of the information available to the Secretariat on their respective national legal frameworks on the Convention, the status of national implementing legislation of Iraq, of Maldives, and of Nauru has been recorded as covering all initial measures.
79. As at the cut-off date of this report, according to the information available to the Secretariat, 19 States Parties in Asia had reported on the existence of draft legislation under development and consideration (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu).
80. One State Party (Papua New Guinea) has not yet begun to develop a draft.

Technical assistance and support

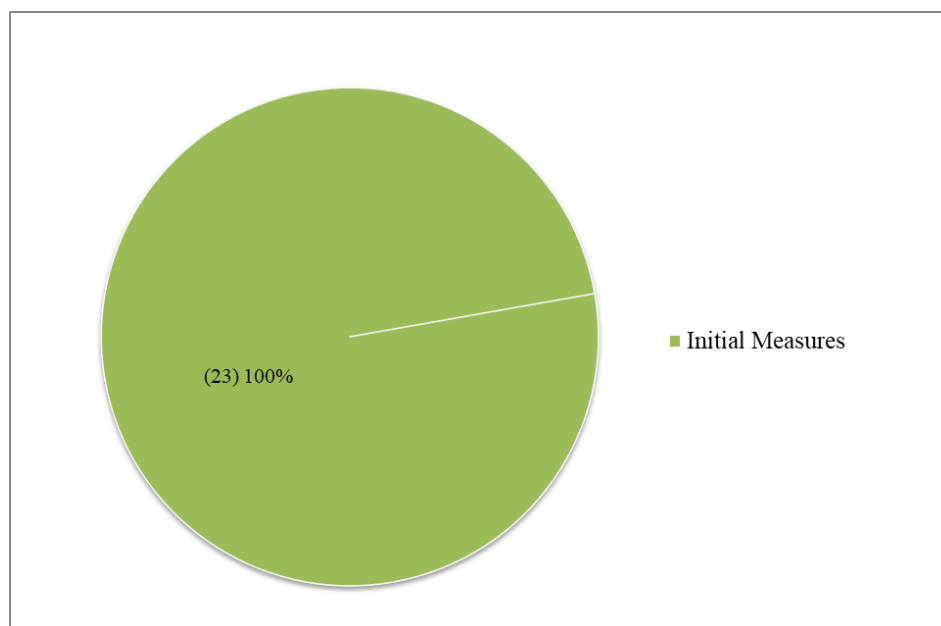
81. Several States Parties in Asia received technical assistance from the Secretariat in developing, reviewing, or finalising their draft legislative texts, several of which are pending consideration by relevant government entities. The Secretariat continued to monitor progress in the adoption process and to follow up with respective States Parties and provide them with advice. The Secretariat engaged with States Parties in the Pacific region through a tailored outreach and sensitisation event with a strong focus on the importance of implementing legislation. This renewed engagement is being followed up.

Eastern Europe

Status of implementation of Article VII

82. According to the information available to the Secretariat, as at the cut-off date of this report, all 23 States Parties in Eastern Europe⁹ had legislation covering all initial measures (see also Figure 14 below).

FIGURE 14: OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION BY STATES PARTIES IN EASTERN EUROPE



Article VII(5) submissions

83. As at 31 July 2023, all 23 States Parties in Eastern Europe had made an Article VII(5) submission.

⁹

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

Updates during the reporting period

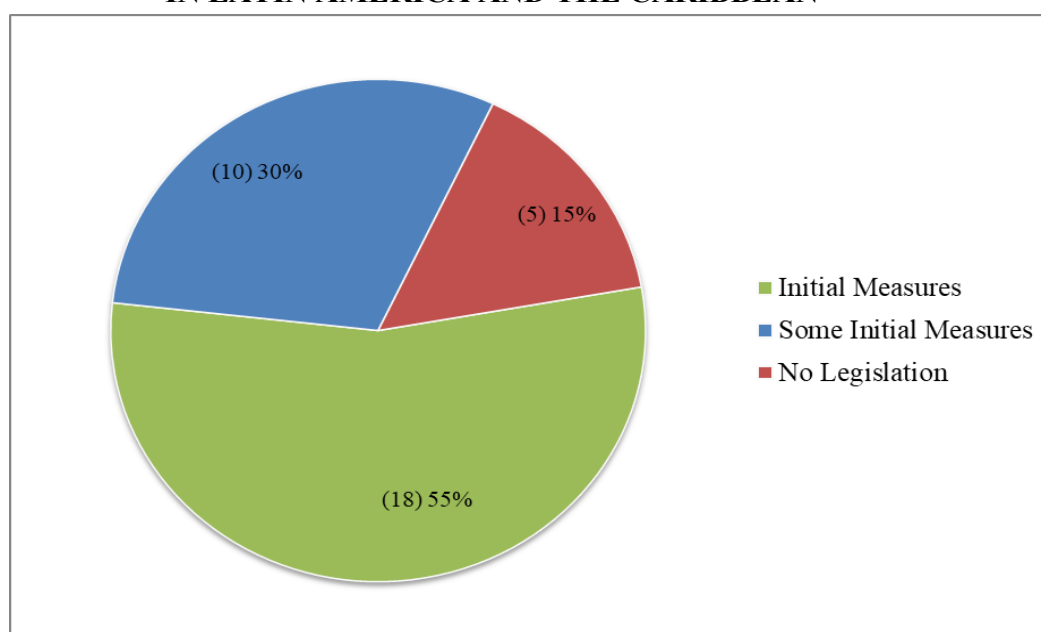
84. During the reporting period, 18 States Parties provided updates to the Secretariat on the steps they had taken towards the implementation of the Convention (Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia).

Latin America and the Caribbean

Status of implementation of Article VII

85. According to the information available to the Secretariat, as at the cut-off date of this report, the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention in the GRULAC region was as follows (see also Figure 15 below):
- (a) Eighteen States Parties (55%) had adopted legislation covering all initial measures (Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Grenada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Uruguay).
 - (b) Ten States Parties (30%) had adopted legislation that covers some of the initial measures (Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).
 - (c) Five States Parties (15%) had yet to submit information on the adoption of implementing legislation and/or had reported that legislation has yet to be adopted (the Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago).

FIGURE 15: OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION BY STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Article VII(5) submissions

86. As at 31 July 2023, 30 States Parties (91%) had made at least one Article VII(5) submission, while three States Parties (9%) had not made any Article VII(5) submission (the Bahamas, Barbados, and Haiti).

Updates during the reporting period

87. During the reporting period, 22 States Parties provided updates to the Secretariat on the steps they had taken towards the implementation of the Convention (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

Status of the legislative process

88. Following consideration of its latest submission and a review of the information available to the Secretariat on its national legal framework on the Convention, the status of national implementing legislation by Suriname has been recorded as covering all initial measures.
89. At the cut-off date of this report, according to the information available to the Secretariat, all 15 States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean that had yet to adopt legislation covering all initial measures had reported on the existence of draft legislation under development and consideration (Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

Technical assistance and support

90. The Secretariat continued to provide legislative review support and advice to relevant States Parties and monitored progress in the adoption process. Specifically, an awareness-raising event involving key stakeholders in national legislative adoption processes was conducted to assist relevant States Parties in addressing challenges related to the adoption of implementing legislation.
91. The development of a tailored approach for States Parties in the Caribbean continued. A subregional outreach and sensitisation event to support advocacy efforts towards the adoption of implementing legislation is at an advanced stage. The Secretariat is cooperating with relevant regional organisations in this regard.

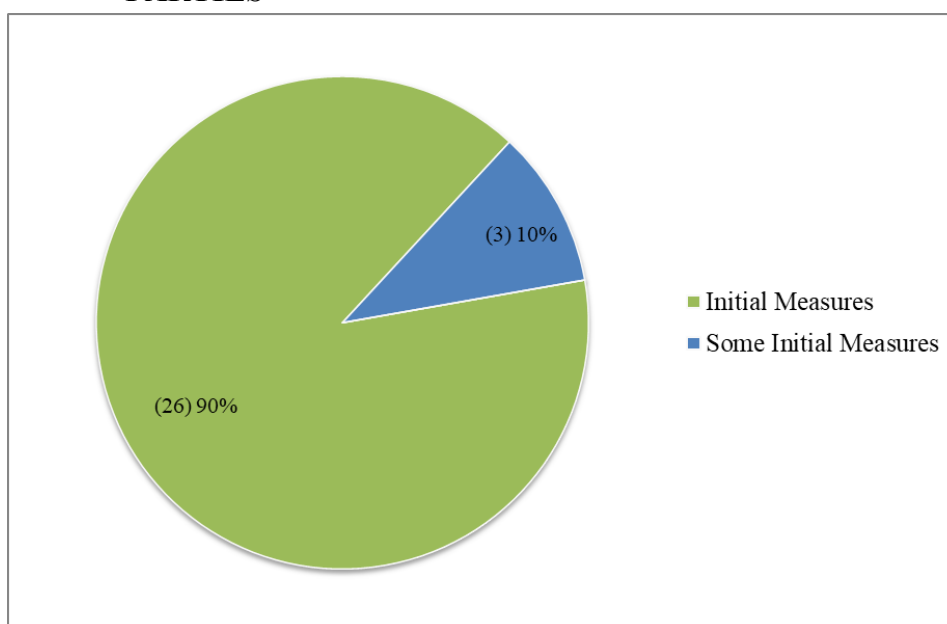
Western European and Other States

Status of implementation of Article VII

92. According to the information available to the Secretariat, as at the cut-off date of this report, the status of implementation of Article VII of the Convention among WEOG States Parties was as follows (see also Figure 16 below):

- (a) Twenty-six States Parties (90%) had adopted legislation covering all initial measures (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America).
- (b) Three States Parties (10%) had adopted legislation that covers some of the initial measures (Andorra, Iceland, and San Marino).

FIGURE 16: OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII OF THE CONVENTION BY WEOG STATES PARTIES



Article VII(5) submissions

93. As at 31 July 2023, all 29 WEOG States Parties had made at least one Article VII(5) submission.

Updates during the reporting period

94. During the reporting period, 27 WEOG States Parties provided an update to the Secretariat on the steps they had taken towards the implementation of the Convention (Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America).

Status of the legislative process

95. The Secretariat continued to engage with Andorra, Iceland, and San Marino in order to provide appropriate assistance to enable these States Parties to fill the gaps in their legislative frameworks. According to the information available to the Secretariat, at the cut-off date of this report, Iceland and San Marino had reported on the existence of draft legislation under development and consideration.

Technical assistance and support

96. Prioritising national Convention implementing legislation continues to pose a challenge to the remaining States Parties in WEOG that have yet to adopt implementing legislation covering all initial measures. The Secretariat monitors progress in the adoption process and stands ready to provide support and advice, including on advocacy approaches.

E. LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

97. In C-14/DEC.12, the Conference encouraged the Secretariat to continue to provide, upon request, technical assistance in a tailor-made and systematic manner to effectively address the needs of States Parties in regard to their practical national implementation issues and concerns. In the same decision, the Conference encouraged States Parties, particularly those desiring assistance in fulfilling their Article VII obligations, to avail themselves of the assistance that is offered if they consider it appropriate (paragraphs 4 and 5 of C-14/DEC.12).
98. In RC-3/3*, the Third Review Conference requested the Secretariat to include an assessment in the annual reports, for consideration by the policy-making organs, containing a comprehensive and objective analysis of the current status of national implementation, with a view to tracking the progress made and formulating focused assistance programmes.
99. The Secretariat reviewed and provided comments on six draft legislative texts submitted by States Parties to determine whether these drafts met the requirements of the Convention. The draft legal texts were provided as Article VII(5) submissions or in connection with requests for legal assistance through the Secretariat. In addition, the Secretariat provided advice and reviewed legal texts submitted by States Parties on the implementation of the amendments to the Annex on Chemicals.
100. In September 2022, the Secretariat organised a regional workshop on best practices in the development of legislative and regulatory frameworks on chemical security. The workshop, which targeted States Parties in GRULAC, was aimed at providing a forum for the participating 14 States Parties to share information on their legal and regulatory frameworks on chemical security and methodologies for assessing risks and gaps.
101. A global stakeholders forum on the adoption of national implementing legislation on the Convention was held in September 2022. The forum enhanced the understanding of key national stakeholders regarding the importance of swift enactment of implementing legislation and of their respective roles in the legislative adoption process. During the forum, 10 States Parties updated their national road maps on the adoption of national implementing legislation and committed to undertake specific actions to move the legislative adoption process forward. In support of the latter, participants developed country-specific key messages on the importance of national implementation of the Convention to be conveyed to high-level decision makers.
102. In October 2022, the Secretariat organised a subregional forum for Pacific Island States on national implementation of the Convention. The forum revitalised the Secretariat's engagement with the subregion by bringing together 11 Pacific Island States Parties and key regional counterparts to promote the importance of Convention implementing legislation.

103. In November 2022, the Secretariat held a regional workshop for 14 French-speaking African States Parties on the role of national implementing legislation in addressing threats arising from non-State actors. The event enhanced participants' understanding of the importance of such legislation for mitigating risks associated with the potential acquisition or use of chemical weapons by non-State actors and for ensuring legal accountability in the event of the diversion of chemicals for hostile purposes. Delegates discussed challenges and shared good practices with respect to the enactment and implementation of Convention-related laws and regulations.

Cooperation, support, and assistance provided bilaterally by States Parties

104. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article VII of the Convention, States Parties are required to “cooperate with other States Parties and afford the appropriate form of legal assistance to facilitate the implementation of the obligations under paragraph 1”. Furthermore, on a number of occasions the Conference has recalled the importance of this obligation and has requested States Parties to offer and/or provide assistance to other States Parties (C-8/DEC.16; C-9/DEC.4, dated 30 November 2004; C-10/DEC.16, dated 11 November 2005; C-12/DEC.9, dated 9 November 2007; C-13/DEC.7, dated 5 December 2008; and C-14/DEC.12).
105. The Secretariat organised three national legislative review forums, respectively with Kenya (October 2022), Myanmar (January 2023), and Djibouti (May 2023). During these bilateral forums, the States Parties assessed their respective national legislative and administrative frameworks on the Convention, identified gaps, and discussed possible approaches to addressing them.
106. The Secretariat continued to support bilateral cooperation among National Authorities through the Mentorship/Partnership Programme, in which National Authorities that have proven to be effective in the implementation of their obligations under the Convention provide guidance, through an exchange of visits, to National Authorities that require additional support for enhancing their effective functioning. The mentor countries shared their technical expertise and experiences in developing, adopting, and implementing their respective legislation on the Convention, as well as on other relevant thematic issues. During the reporting period, an exchange visit took place between the National Authorities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia. Exchange visits were prepared between the National Authorities of Brazil and Mozambique.

Annex (English only):

Status of Implementation of Initial Measures by States Parties (as at 31 July 2023)

Annex

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIAL MEASURES BY STATES PARTIES
(AS AT 31 JULY 2023)**

States Parties	Last Update	Status	Article VII(5) Submission
Afghanistan (24 October 2003)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Albania (29 April 1997)	2022	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Algeria (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Andorra (29 March 2003)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures.	Yes
Angola (16 October 2015)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Antigua and Barbuda (28 September 2005)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Argentina (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Armenia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Australia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Austria (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Azerbaijan (30 March 2000)	2020	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Bahamas (21 May 2009)	2022	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Bahrain (29 April 1997)	2021	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Bangladesh (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Barbados (6 April 2007)	2022	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Belarus (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Belgium (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Belize (31 December 2003)	2020	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes

States Parties	Last Update	Status	Article VII(5) Submission
Benin (13 June 1998)	2017	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Bhutan (17 September 2005)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (13 September 1998)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Botswana (30 September 1998)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Brazil (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Brunei Darussalam (29 August 1997)	2019	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Bulgaria (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Burkina Faso (7 August 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Burundi (4 October 1998)	2021	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Cabo Verde (9 November 2003)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Cambodia (18 August 2005)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Cameroon (29 April 1997)	2019	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Canada (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Central African Republic (20 October 2006)	2014	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Chad (14 March 2004)	2022	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Chile (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
China (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Colombia (5 May 2000)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Comoros (17 September 2006)	2011	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes

States Parties	Last Update	Status	Article VII(5) Submission
Congo (3 January 2008)	2018	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Cook Islands (29 April 1997)	2018	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Costa Rica (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Croatia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Cuba (29 May 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Cyprus (27 September 1998)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Czech Republic (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Democratic Republic of the Congo (11 November 2005)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Denmark (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Djibouti (24 February 2006)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Dominica (13 March 2001)	2021	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Dominican Republic (26 April 2009)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Ecuador (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
El Salvador (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Equatorial Guinea (29 April 1997)	2007	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Eritrea (15 March 2000)	2013	No legislation.	None
Estonia (25 June 1999)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Eswatini (29 April 1997)	2018	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None

States Parties	Last Update	Status	Article VII(5) Submission
Ethiopia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Fiji (29 April 1997)	2018	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Finland (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
France (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Gabon (8 October 2000)	2019	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Gambia (18 June 1998)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Georgia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Germany (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Ghana (8 August 1997)	2019	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Greece (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Grenada (3 July 2005)	2019	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Guatemala (14 March 2003)	2022	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Guinea (9 July 1997)	2019	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Guinea-Bissau (19 June 2008)	2016	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Guyana (12 October 1997)	2021	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Haiti (24 March 2006)	2016	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Holy See (11 June 1999)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Honduras (28 September 2005)	2022	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Hungary (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes

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Iceland (29 April 1997)	2022	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
India (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Indonesia (12 December 1998)	2019	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (3 December 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Iraq (12 February 2009)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Ireland (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Italy (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Jamaica (8 October 2000)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Japan (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Jordan (28 November 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Kazakhstan (22 April 2000)	2022	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Kenya (29 April 1997)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Kiribati (7 October 2000)	2010	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Kuwait (28 June 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Kyrgyzstan (29 October 2003)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Lao People's Democratic Republic (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Latvia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Lebanon (20 December 2008)	2017	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Lesotho (29 April 1997)	2012	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Liberia (25 March 2006)	2011	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes

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Libya (5 February 2004)	2020	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Liechtenstein (24 December 1999)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Lithuania (15 May 1998)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Luxembourg (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Madagascar (9 November 2004)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Malawi (11 July 1998)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Malaysia (20 May 2000)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Maldives (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Mali (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Malta (29 April 1997)	2019	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Marshall Islands (18 June 2004)	2019	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Mauritania (11 March 1998)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Mauritius (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Mexico (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Micronesia (Federated States of) (21 July 1999)	2014	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Monaco (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Mongolia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Montenegro (3 June 2006)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Morocco (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Mozambique (14 September 2000)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes

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Myanmar (7 August 2015)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Namibia (29 April 1997)	2019	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Nauru (12 December 2001)	2022	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Nepal (18 December 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Netherlands (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
New Zealand (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Nicaragua (5 December 1999)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Niger (29 April 1997)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Nigeria (19 June 1999)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Niue (21 May 2005)	2010	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
North Macedonia (20 July 1997)	2020	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Norway (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Oman (29 April 1997)	2020	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Pakistan (27 November 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Palau (5 March 2003)	2018	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Panama (6 November 1998)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Papua New Guinea (29 April 1997)	2014	No legislation.	None
Paraguay (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Peru (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Philippines (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes

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Poland (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Portugal (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Qatar (3 October 1997)	2022	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Republic of Korea (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Republic of Moldova (29 April 1997)	2021	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Romania (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Russian Federation (5 December 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Rwanda (30 April 2004)	2012	Legislation covers some of the initial measures.	Yes
Saint Kitts and Nevis (20 June 2004)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Saint Lucia (29 April 1997)	2011	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (18 October 2002)	2022	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Samoa (27 October 2002)	2021	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
San Marino (9 January 2000)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Sao Tome and Principe (9 October 2003)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Saudi Arabia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Senegal (19 August 1998)	2022	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Serbia (20 May 2000)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Seychelles (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Sierra Leone (30 October 2004)	2011	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Singapore (20 June 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes

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Slovakia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Slovenia (11 July 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Solomon Islands (23 October 2004)	2019	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Somalia (28 June 2013)	2015	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
South Africa (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures	Yes
Spain (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Sri Lanka (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
State of Palestine (16 June 2018)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Sudan (23 June 1999)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Suriname (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Sweden (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Switzerland (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Syrian Arab Republic (14 October 2013)	2020	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Tajikistan (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Thailand (9 January 2003)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Timor-Leste (6 June 2003)	2019	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Togo (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Tonga (28 June 2003)	2019	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Trinidad and Tobago (24 July 1997)	2023	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Tunisia (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Türkiye (11 June 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes

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Turkmenistan (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Tuvalu (18 February 2004)	2010	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Uganda (30 December 2001)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Ukraine (15 November 1998)	2022	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
United Arab Emirates (28 December 2000)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
United Republic of Tanzania (25 July 1998)	2021	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
United States of America (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Uruguay (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Uzbekistan (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Vanuatu (16 October 2005)	2018	No legislation. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	None
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2 January 1998)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes
Viet Nam (30 October 1998)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Yemen (1 November 2000)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Zambia (11 March 2001)	2023	Legislation covers all initial measures.	Yes
Zimbabwe (29 April 1997)	2023	Legislation covers some of the initial measures. Draft legislation under development and consideration.	Yes