

Note: Answers for this question were in comment-form and were incorporated into conference call and workshop discussions, and ultimately into "Part II: Weapons of Mass Destruction Verification and Compliance: Challenges and Responses."

Section Four

Biological Weapons Verification and Compliance: Challenges and Responses

Challenges

The following questions assessed experts' views on the relative severity of 'internal' and 'external' challenges facing the biological weapons verification and compliance regime – defined for this purpose as the compliance provisions of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and limited authorities within the United Nations to investigate instances of suspected non-compliance with the BTWC. Here 'internal' challenges refer to issues directly related to BTWC verification and compliance mechanisms themselves. 'External' challenges refer to issues external to the biological weapons regime that have the potential to influence the effectiveness of the regime.

4.1 Please rank the following internal challenges that face verification and compliance respect of the biological weapons regime. (Please assign numbers 1 through 5 to following statements. 1= most significant challenge.)

Absence of a BTWC verification mechanism

(26 respondents)

Rank 1: 13 responses (50%)

Rank 2: 9 responses (35%)

Rank 3: 3 responses (12%)

Rank 4: 0 responses (0%)

Rank 5: 1 response (4%)

Lack of universal adherence to the BTWC

(25 respondents)

Rank 1: 4 responses (16%)

Rank 2: 4 responses (16%)

Rank 3: 4 responses (16%)

Rank 4: 5 responses (20%)

Rank 5: 8 responses (32%)

Lack of political will to fully address allegations of non-compliance with the BTWC

(26 respondents)

Rank 1: 9 responses (35%)

Rank 2: 8 responses (31%)

Rank 3: 8 responses (31%)

Rank 4: 0 responses (0%)