

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND  
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

BWC/MSP/2007/3\*  
4 December 2007

Original: ENGLISH

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**Fourth Meeting**  
**Geneva, 10-14 December 2007**  
Item 9 of the provisional agenda  
**Report of the Implementation Support Unit**  
**(including report on participation in the**  
**confidence-building measures)**

**REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT**

Submitted by the Implementation Support Unit

*Summary*

This report describes the activities of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to implement the mandate given to it by the Sixth Review Conference to support States Parties in the administration and comprehensive implementation of the Convention, the promotion of universalization of the Convention, and the exchange of confidence-building measures (CBMs). The Conference decided that the Unit "will submit a concise annual written report to all States Parties on its activities" (BWC/CONF.VI/6, Part III, paragraph 6).

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\* Reissued for technical reasons.

## **I. Establishment of the Unit**

1. In accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs advertised the three professional staff positions of the Unit and held a selection process as required by the relevant United Nations recruitment procedures. On 1 April 2007, Mr. Richard Lennane was appointed as Head of the Unit. On 1 May 2007, Dr. Piers Millett was appointed as Political Affairs Officer, and on 2 August 2007, Ms. Ngoc Phuong Huynh was appointed as Associate Political Affairs Officer.

2. The Unit gradually took up its mandated activities from April 2007 and became fully operational on 2 August 2007. It is located in rooms C.115 and C.117 within the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, which provides administrative facilities for the Unit. The ISU was officially launched on 20 August 2007 by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Sergio Duarte, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, and the President of the Sixth Review Conference and Chairman of the Meeting of Experts, Ambassador Masood Khan (Pakistan).

## **II. Administrative Support for the Convention**

3. The ISU formed the substantive Secretariat for BWC meetings in 2007, servicing the Meeting of Experts (20-24 August) and the Meeting of States Parties (10-14 December), and supporting the activities of the Chairman. This included: drafting and issuing communications to States Parties, international organisations and NGOs; drafting speeches and other materials for the Chairman; processing meeting registrations; researching and drafting substantive background documents<sup>1</sup>; preparing conference documents and reports; processing working papers; and providing procedural, technical and substantive advice to the Chairman and States Parties.

4. One State Party approached the Unit requesting advice and assistance with organising a regional seminar on the Convention. The ISU provided some preliminary advice, and consultation with the State Party is continuing.

5. The ISU maintained and developed its website ([www.unog.ch/bwc](http://www.unog.ch/bwc)), which now acts as the primary tool for the dissemination of information related to the Convention by, and to, States Parties. The website provides up-to-date information on meetings and related activities, an online registration facility for meetings, official documents, statements, press releases, background materials, information on relevant activities in other organisations, useful links, and membership lists. The website also contains the National Implementation Database (NID - see the implementation section below).

6. In accordance with the specific request of the Sixth Review Conference, the Unit developed a restricted access area of the website which is accessible, via username and password, only to States Parties. This section of the website provides details of national points of contact, electronic copies of CBM submissions (see the CBM section below), and information

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<sup>1</sup> See for example: Previous Agreements, Understandings and Proposals on Enhancing National Implementation (BWC/MSP/2007/MX/INF.1), and International and Regional Initiatives to Enhance National Implementation of the Convention (BWC/MSP/2007/MX/INF.2).

on the results of efforts to promote universalization (see the promotion of universalization section below).

7. At the request of the Chairman, the ISU has engaged in regular contacts with international organisations relevant to the Convention and the 2007 meetings, including the African Union; the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN); the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol); the League of Arab States; the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); the United Nations (1540 Committee, Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and Office for Disarmament Affairs); the World Health Organization; and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

8. Also at the request of the Chairman, the ISU has had contact with a number of scientific and academic institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations relevant to the Unit's activities. These contacts have provided insights and information which have assisted the ISU in supporting the efforts of States Parties. Many of the organisations with which the Unit has had contact participated in the Meeting of Experts and the Meeting of States Parties.

9. The ISU accepted invitations to participate in a number of meetings and events throughout the year. These events have been relevant to the Convention and the work of the Unit, including its efforts to support the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Sixth Review Conference. They also provided opportunities to conduct basic awareness raising and outreach on the existence and provisions of the Convention. The events included:

- (i) Workshop on BW, Governance and Civil Society, London, United Kingdom, 12-13 March 2007;
- (ii) Seminar on Deconstructing the Final Declaration of the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, Brighton, United Kingdom, 15-16 March 2007;
- (iii) International Homeland Security and Resilience, London, United Kingdom, 29 May 2007;
- (iv) Informal Meeting on BWC National Implementation, Paris, France, 7 June 2007;
- (v) 30th Round Table on Current Issues in Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy, 6-8 September 2007;
- (vi) Workshop on Strengthening a Global Biosafety / Biosecurity Framework and Coping with the Biotechnology Revolution, Como, Italy, 25-26 October 2007;
- (vii) National Authorities Meeting of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, The Hague, Netherlands, 2-3 November 2007.

### **III. Implementation of the Convention**

10. One State Party contacted the Unit requesting assistance with national implementation of the Convention. The ISU is in the course of facilitating communication between this State Party and a number of States Parties which might be in a position to offer the required assistance.

11. The ISU revised and updated the 2003 Information Repository compiled to assist States Parties with the 2003 meetings on national implementation and biosecurity. The result was the online National Implementation Database (NID), which was demonstrated to States Parties on 20 August 2007 at the Meeting of Experts. This database contains details of national measures that might be relevant to the Convention in as many states for which it has been possible to gather data. Where possible, it also provides a summary of the measures and a link to the full text of the instrument. The NID was revised following the Meeting of Experts to incorporate additional information presented at that meeting. The NID currently includes a total of 2022 measures, from 119 States Parties (representing 76% of the membership of the BWC), five signatories, six states not party, and one regional organisation. The NID is available on the ISU website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/NID>).

12. In accordance with its mandate to facilitate communication among States Parties, the ISU collected details of national points of contact for the Convention. To date, 52 States Parties have nominated national points of contact as requested by the Sixth Review Conference (see Annex I, in English only). The full details of the national points of contact are listed in the restricted area of the ISU website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc/restricted>).

13. Two staff members from the ISU visited the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague in November 2007<sup>2</sup> to learn from the experience of that organisation in assisting States Parties with national implementation. During this visit, members of the ISU met with the Government Relations Branch, the External Relations Branch, the Office of the Legal Advisor, and the Implementation Support Branch of the OPCW. The discussions led to the identification of a number of possible steps which the Unit could take to enhance efforts to facilitate implementation. During the visit members of the ISU also examined details of national measures taken by States under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and identified seven States Parties to the BWC which have adopted measures to implement the CWC which might be examined by legal experts to see how they could be expanded to encompass the provisions of the BWC. A full report on the visit is available in the restricted area of the ISU website.

#### **IV. Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs)**

14. In accordance with the decision of the Sixth Review Conference, responsibility for processing the CBMs was transferred to the ISU from the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York. The ISU prepared electronic (Adobe PDF format) versions of the CBM forms and made them available on its website. Sixty-one states (38% of States Parties) submitted information in 2007, the highest number to participate since the CBMs were introduced in 1987. Of these, 17 submitted their CBM on or before the deadline of 15 April 2007. Annex II (English only) lists the submissions and includes a breakdown of submission by each of the CBM forms, along with charts and other information.

15. The Head of the ISU wrote to all States Parties on 27 June 2007 to inform them that the restricted area of the ISU website was operational, and that CBM submissions would be published there on 16 July 2007, unless a State Party requested otherwise. The letter also

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<sup>2</sup> This visit was funded by a voluntary contribution from one State Party.

informed States Parties that CBMs would no longer be produced and distributed in hard copy. Four States Parties initially requested that their CBM not be published on the website; one of these subsequently withdrew its request. The submissions of 58 States Parties are therefore currently available in the restricted area.

16. In order to distribute the remaining three CBM submissions, and to ensure that all States Parties have access to the complete set of information provided under this mechanism, the ISU produced a data CD-ROM containing *all* the CBM returns from 1987 to 2007<sup>3</sup>. These data disks list CBM submissions both by year and by State Party. The disks were distributed in late November to the permanent missions of States Parties in Geneva (or in New York for States Parties not represented in Geneva), as well as to nominated national points of contact.

17. Several States Parties approached the ISU to enquire if, in the interests of transparency, their CBMs could also be made available in the publicly-accessible area of the ISU website. To date, three CBMs have been placed in the publicly-accessible area of the CBM section of the website (they also remain available in the restricted area).

18. The ISU has been made aware that a CBM submission made by Romania in 1992, to cover the calendar year 1991, was issued as a document of the VEREX meetings<sup>4</sup> and has not been incorporated into previously issued information documents on CBMs. The relevant lists and summaries have been altered accordingly on the ISU website. The CD-ROM referred to above includes this submission.

19. During the course of 2007, the Unit provided routine administrative assistance and advice on participating in the CBMs to a significant number of States Parties. The Unit did not, however, receive any requests for substantive assistance for the preparation of CBMs.

20. The ISU was requested by one State Party to provide information on various aspects of participation in the CBMs, including the languages of submission and the number of maximum containment facilities and biological defence research and development programmes declared. The ISU provided this information to the State Party.

21. The ISU was not established in time to issue a notice, three months in advance, informing States Parties of the 15 April deadline for the submission of data in 2007, as mandated by the Sixth Review Conference. The Unit will issue such a notice for 2008.

## **V. Promotion of Universalization**

22. The Unit supported the Chairman in his activities to promote universalization, assisting him with his correspondence with the foreign ministers of states not party to the Convention, and preparing for and participating in meetings between the Chairman and representatives of states not party to the Convention. Two staff members of the Unit travelled to The Hague in November 2007<sup>5</sup> to attend the National Authorities meeting of the OPCW and pursue universalization activities with representatives of states that are party to the CWC but not to the

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<sup>3</sup> One 2007 submission was received too late for inclusion on the disk, but is available on the website. The disk contains 60 of the 61 submissions received to date in 2007.

<sup>4</sup> BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/NONE.26

<sup>5</sup> This visit was funded by a voluntary contribution from one State Party.

BWC. The Unit consolidated and made available information on progress towards universality in the restricted area of the ISU website.

23. Further details on these activities, and the results to date, can be found in the Chairman's Report on Universalization Activities (BWC/MSP/2007/4).

## **VI. Conclusions and Recommendations**

24. The ISU has met several key requirements of its mandate in 2007, including establishment of a restricted access website; facilities for electronic submission and publication of CBMs; facilitation of contacts with relevant organisations; and support for universalization activities. But the ISU received very few requests for, or offers of, assistance with national implementation or CBMs. It was therefore unable to do much to fulfil the important aspects of its mandate concerning the facilitation of communication among States Parties and the exchange of requests for and offers of assistance. The ISU would therefore like to encourage States Parties to make greater use of its facilities in this area.

25. The move to electronic submission and distribution of CBMs has proved efficient and popular. While distribution of CBMs by CD-ROM will be continued if necessary, the ISU encourages all States Parties to allow the publication of their CBMs on the restricted area of the ISU website. The ISU would be happy to work with concerned States Parties to ensure that the security arrangements meet their requirements. The ISU will also work to further develop the electronic versions of the CBM forms, with the aim of providing an online submission capability.

Annex I

[English Only]

NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT

The following national points of contact had been nominated to the ISU by November 2007. Full contact details, including telephone and facsimile numbers and e-mail addresses, are available to States Parties in the restricted area of the ISU website (<http://www.unog.ch/bwc>).

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2201 C Street, NW, Room  
2803  
20520 Washington D.C.  
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**Uzbekistan**

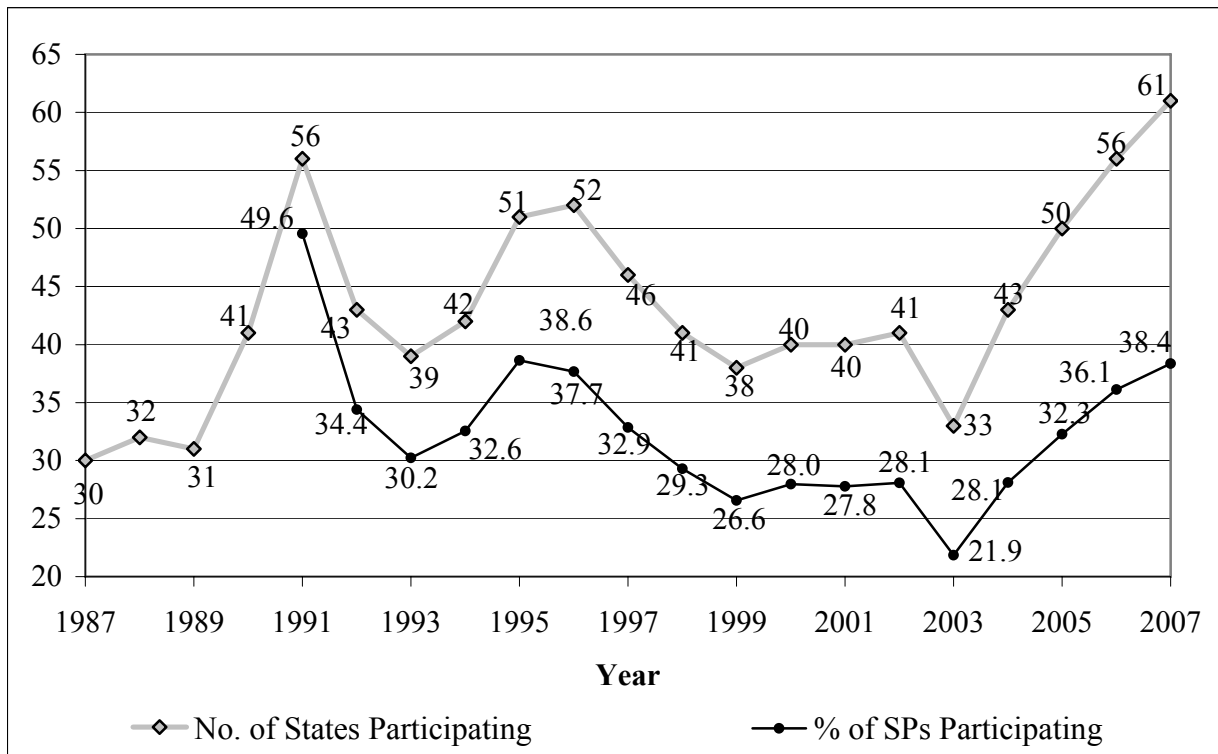
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Deputy-Chairman  
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Cabinet of Ministers of the  
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Biological Weapons  
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700011 Tashkent  
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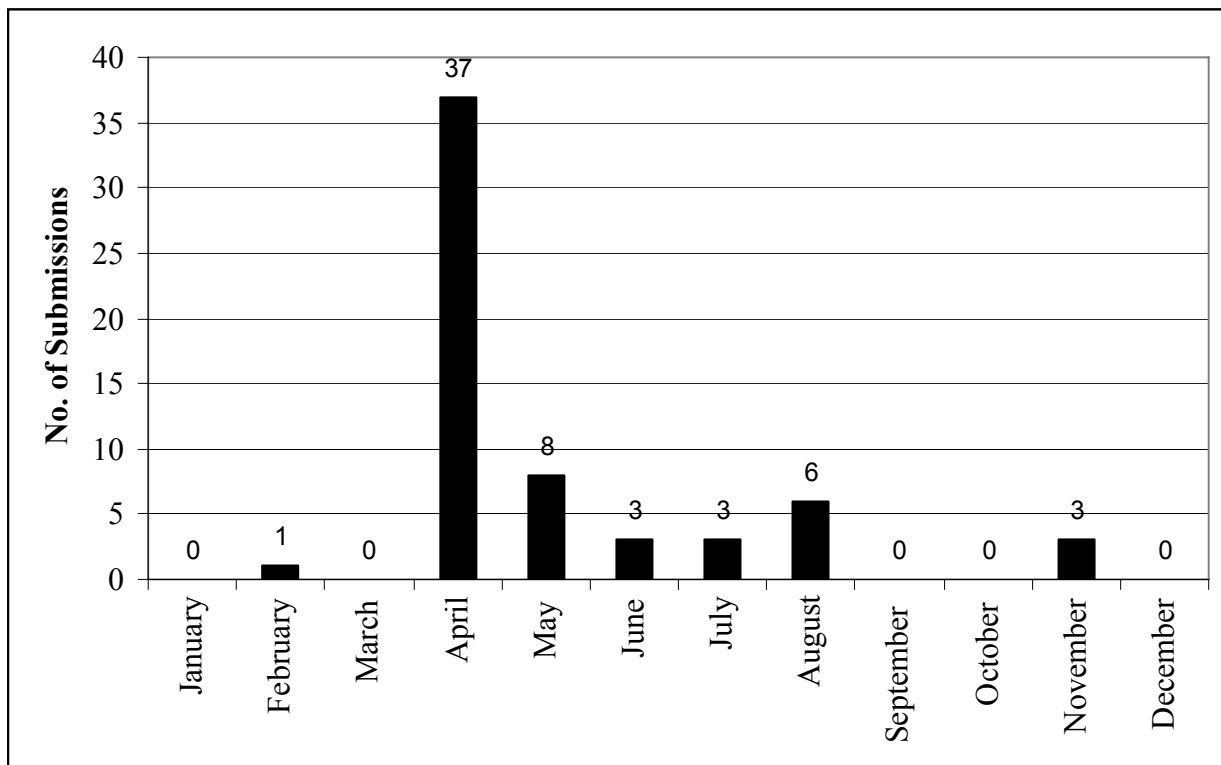
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Alshaibani  
Coordinator  
National Committee for the  
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Biological and Toxin  
Weapons of Yemen  
Qa'a ALolofi  
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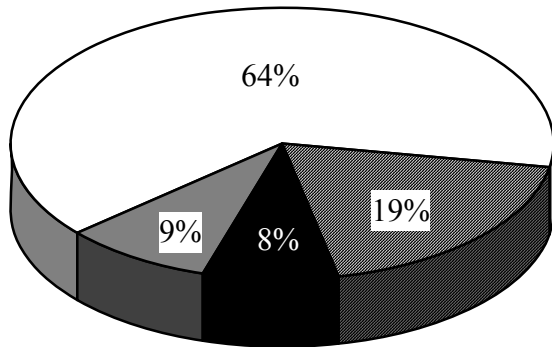
Numbers and percentages of States Parties participating in the BWC confidence-building measures since their introduction in 1987.



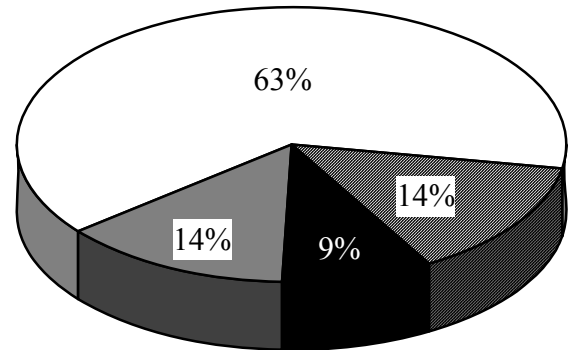
BWC confidence-building measure submissions by month in 2007

The following charts show the rates of participation for 2007 in each of the CBM forms:

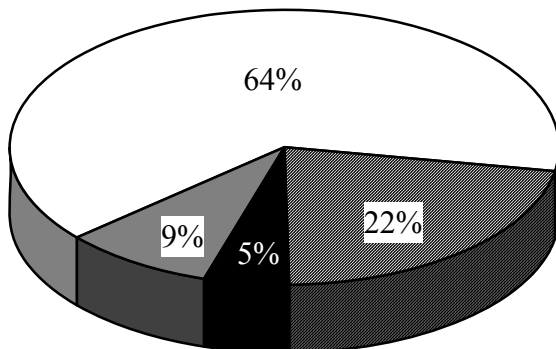
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- Nothing New to Declare
- Nothing to Declare
- No Information Provided



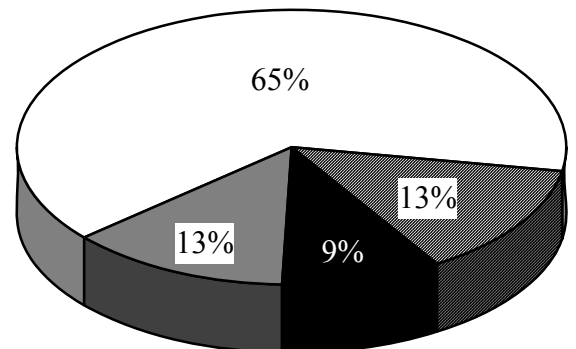
BWC CBM Returns for Form A1 in 2007



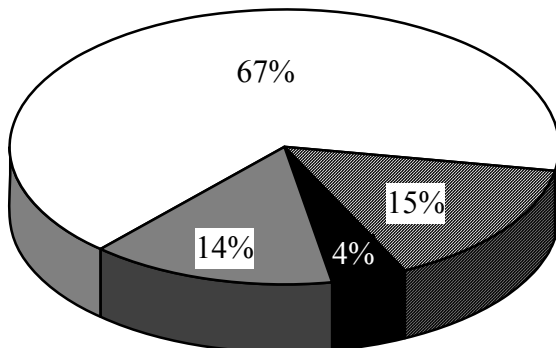
BWC CBM Returns for Form A2 in 2007



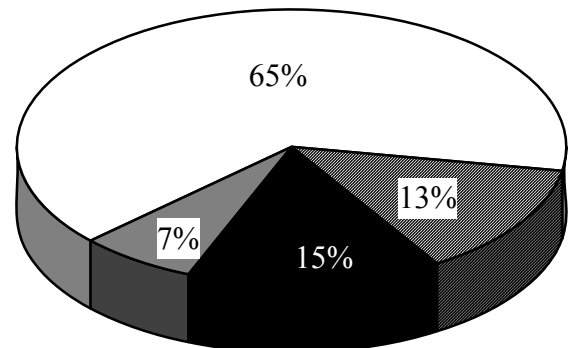
BWC CBM Returns for Form B in 2007



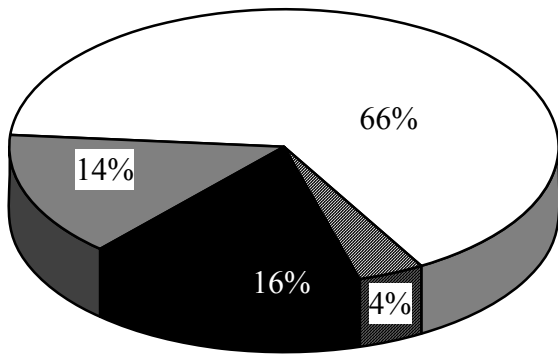
BWC CBM Returns for Form C in 2007



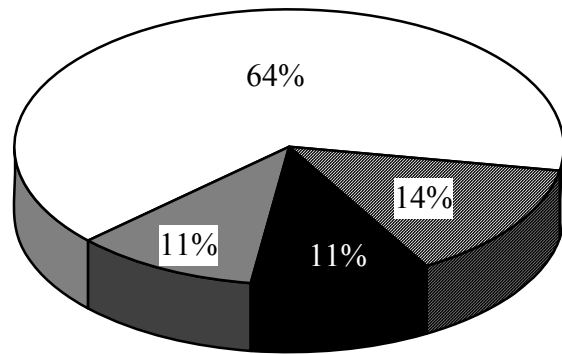
BWC CBM Returns for Form D in 2007



BWC CBM Returns for Form E in 2007



BWC CBM Returns for Form F in 2007



BWC CBM Returns for Form G in 2007

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