



The Biological Weapons Convention

Implementation Support Unit
Biological Weapons Convention



OVERVIEW

1. The Treaty

FACTS & FIGURES
KEY PROVISIONS
HISTORY

2. Current Status

ONGOING EFFORTS
ANNUAL MEETINGS
THE ISU
PROGRESS

BIORISK SPECTRUM
NOT LIKE THE REST
NETWORKED APPROACH

3. The Context

COLLECTIVE SECURITY
STRENGTHENING HEALTH CAPACITY
THE WIN / WIN OPTION

4. Why join?



THE TREATY - FACTS & FIGURES

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction

- Entered into force in 1975
- 161 States Parties
- 14 Signatories
- 20 States not party
- Depositories: Russia, UK, USA



THE TREATY - KEY PROVISIONS

- Article I** Never under any circumstances to acquire or retain biological weapons
- Article II** To destroy or divert to peaceful purposes biological weapons and associated resources prior to joining
- Article III** Not to transfer, or in any way assist, encourage or induce anyone else to acquire or retain biological weapons
- Article IV** To take any national measures necessary to implement the provisions of the BWC domestically
- Article V** To consult bilaterally and multilaterally to solve any problems with the implementation of the BWC
- Article VI** To request the UN Security Council to investigate alleged breaches of the BWC and to comply with its subsequent decisions
- Article VII** To assist States which have been exposed to a danger as a result of a violation of the BWC
- Article X** To do all of the above in a way that encourages the peaceful uses of biological science and technology



THE TREATY - HISTORY (1)

- Review Conferences every five years (1980, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 - next one in 2011)
- Confidence-building Measures (CBMs) introduced 1986, expanded 1991
- VEREX group established 1991 to examine verification possibilities
- Special Conference in 1994 establishes Ad Hoc Group to negotiate protocol
- Ad Hoc Group negotiations end in failure in 2001; Fifth Review Conference suspended



THE TREATY - HISTORY (2)

FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE

2003 – 2005 Intersessional Process

**MEETING OF
EXPERTS**

SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE

2007 – 2010 Intersessional Process

**MEETING OF
STATES
PARTIES**

SEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE

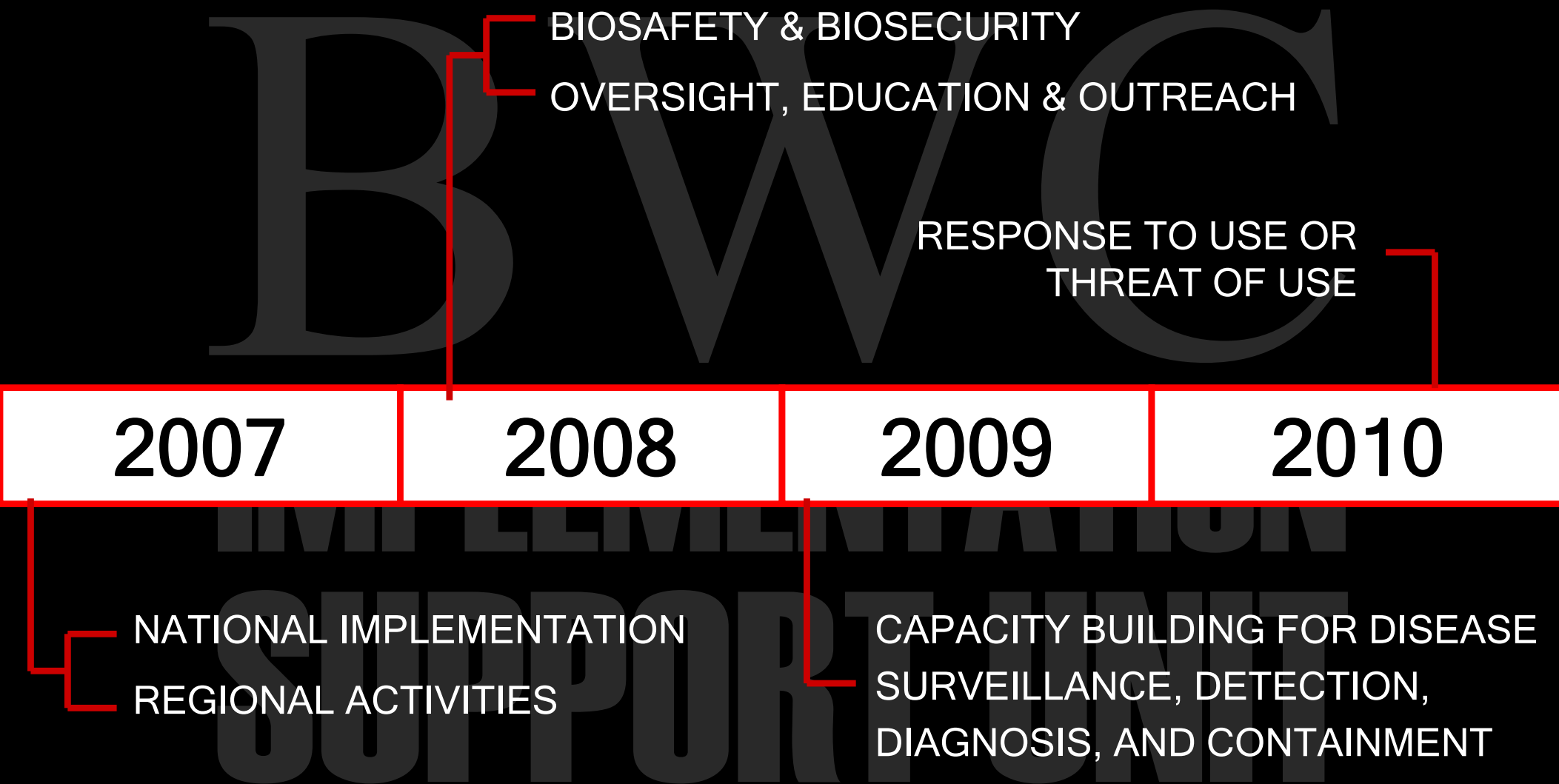


CURRENT STATUS - ONGOING EFFORTS

- 2006 RevCon overcame past divisions
- Created 2007 - 2010 intersessional process
- Implementation Support Unit (ISU)
- Action plan for universalization
- Improving national implementation
- Improved CBM information exchange process
- Enhancing provision of assistance
- Building national contact point network



CURRENT STATUS - 2007 TO 2010 ANNUAL MEETINGS





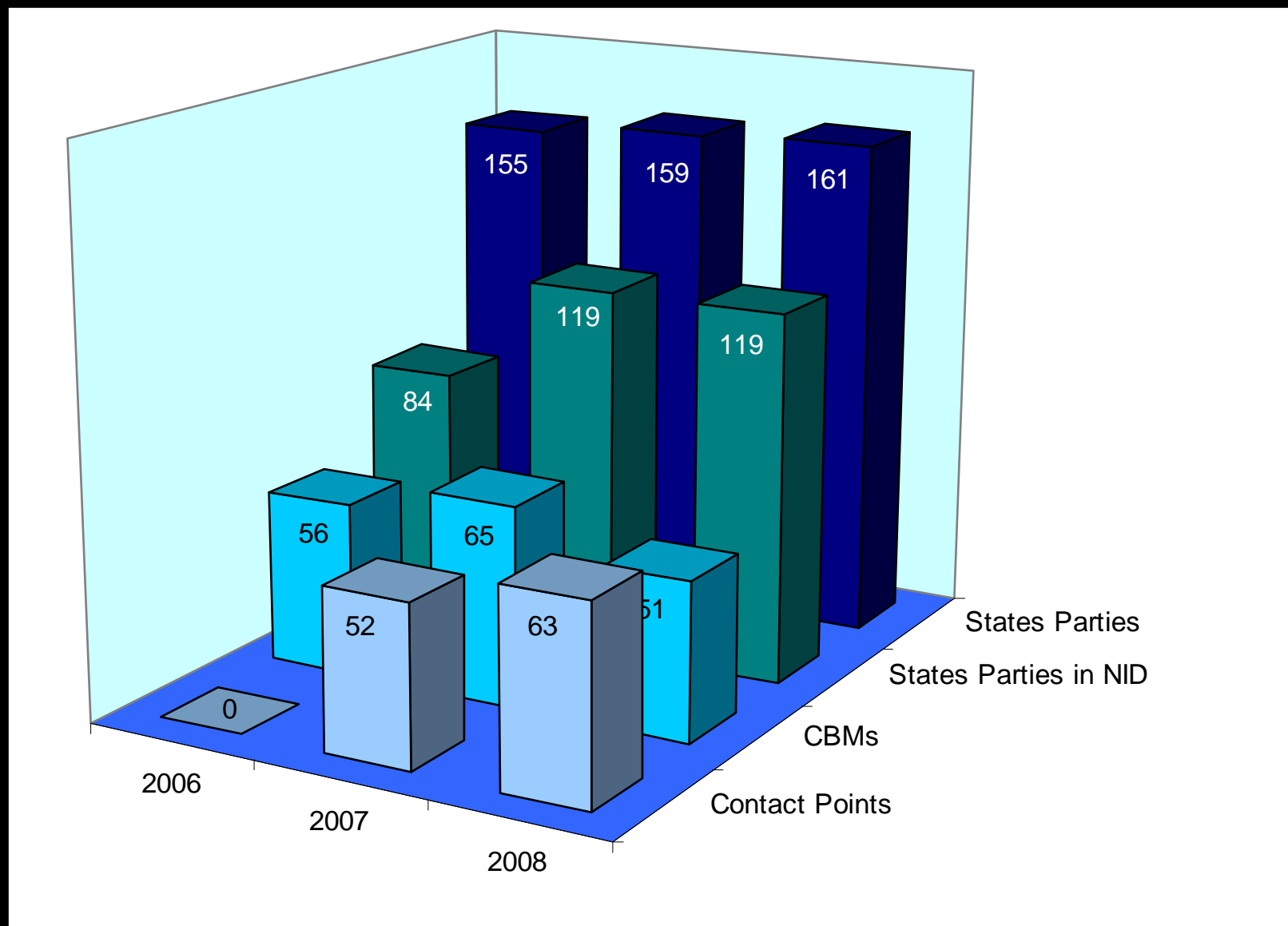
CURRENT STATUS - THE ISU

The Implementation Support Unit:

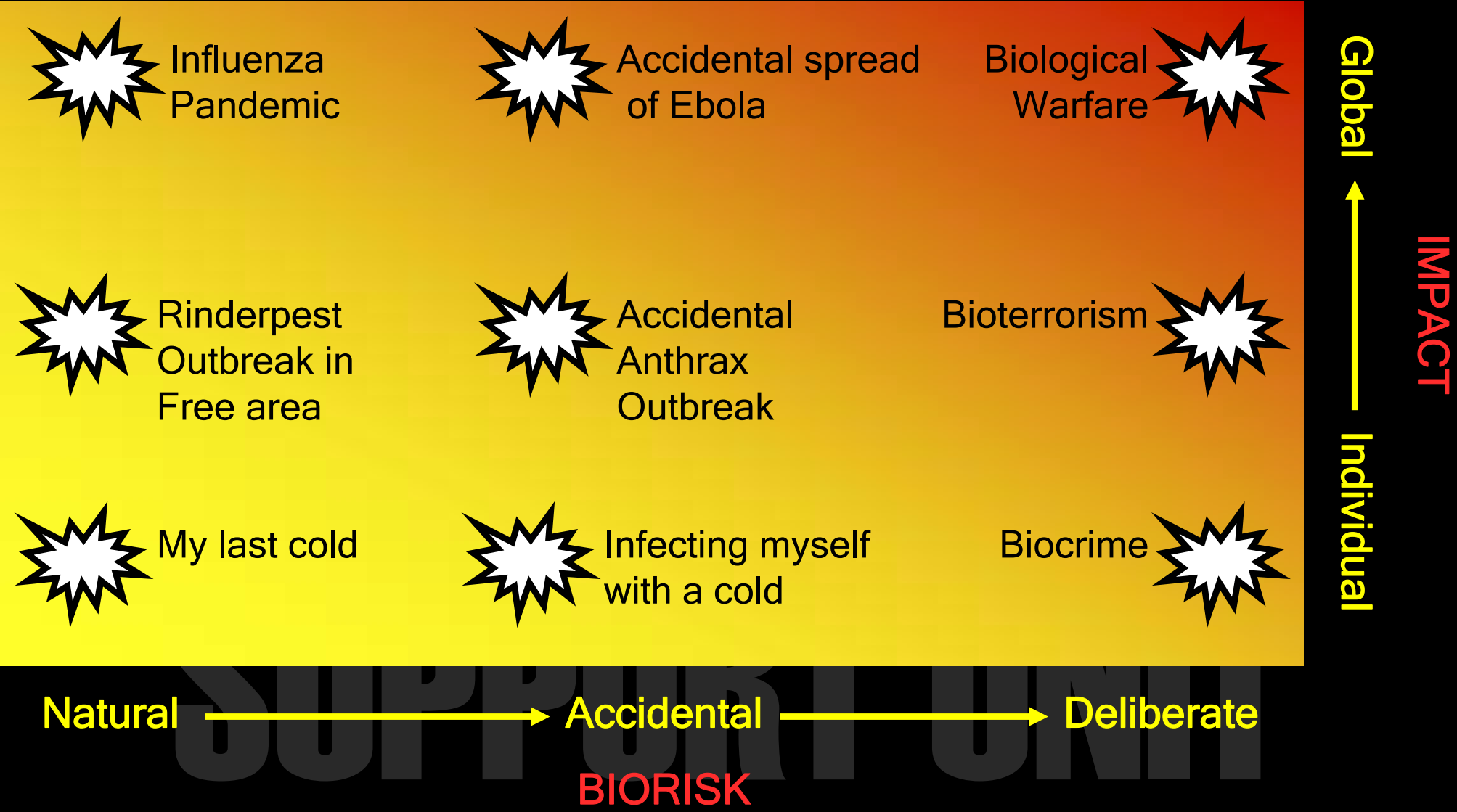
- Created in 2006
- Housed in UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
- Has only three members
- Mandate:
 - provisions of administrative support
 - CBMs
 - national implementation, and
 - universalization
- Helps States Parties help themselves



CURRENT STATUS - PROGRESS

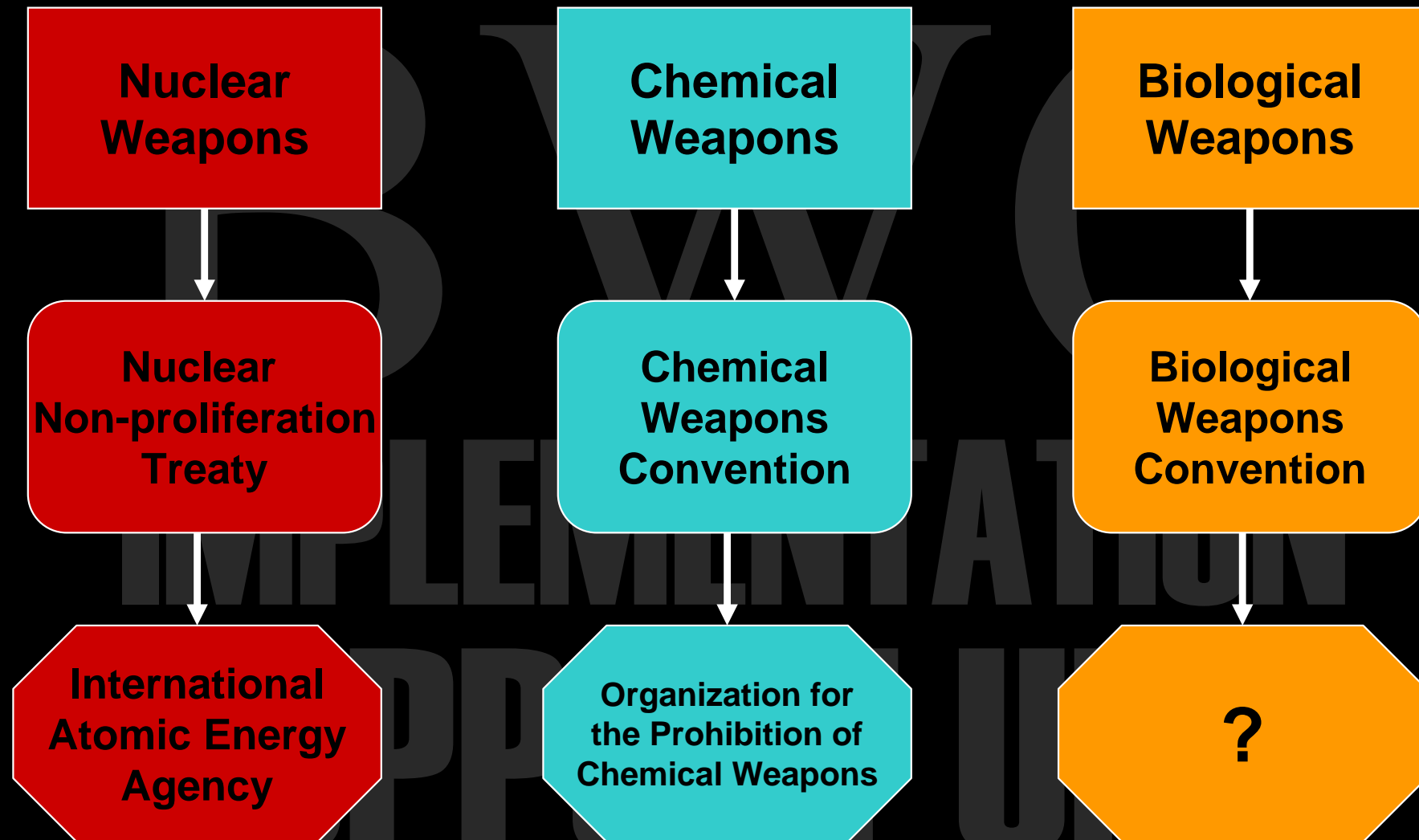


THE CONTEXT - BIORISK SPECTRUM (2)



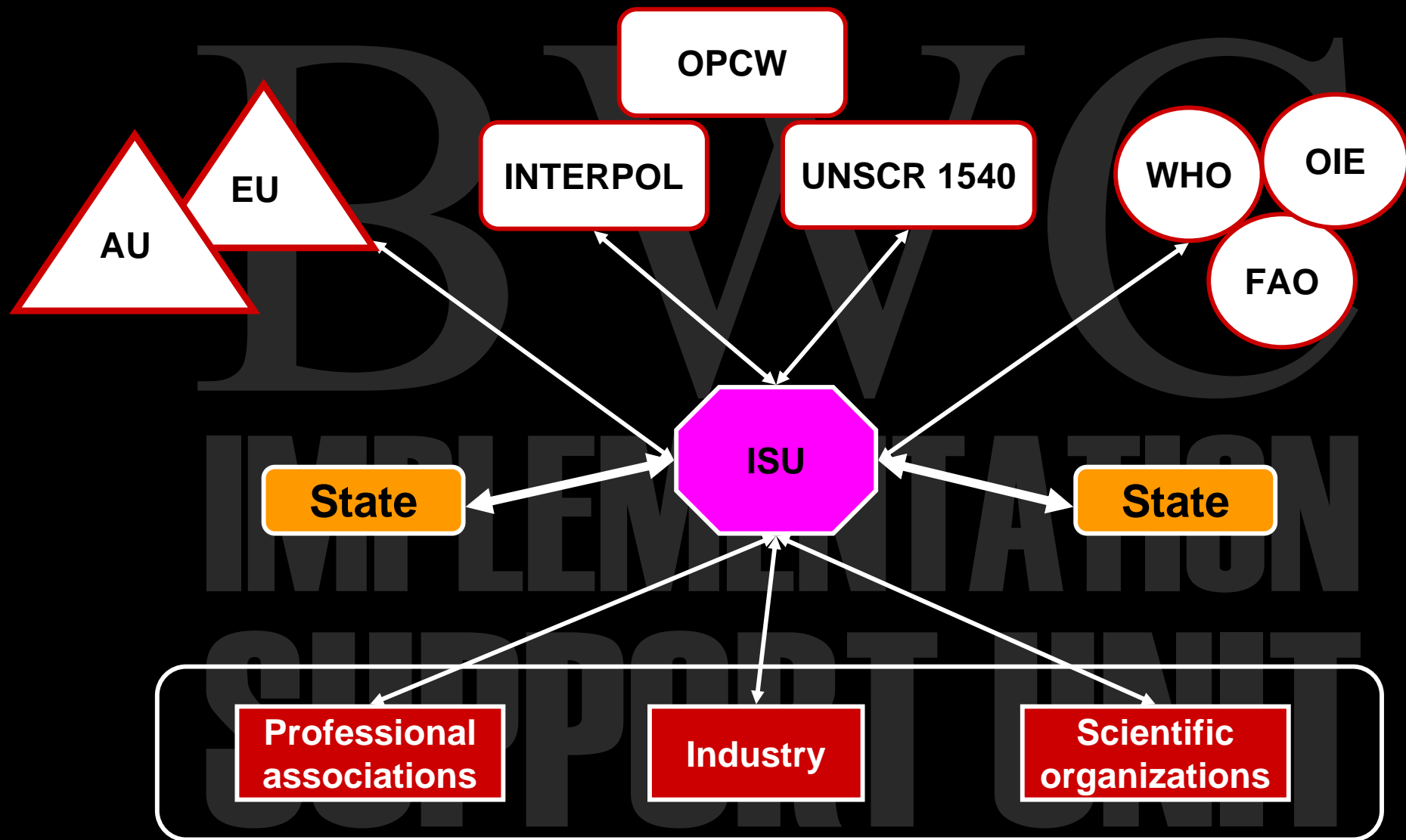


THE CONTEXT - NOT LIKE THE REST





THE CONTEXT - A NETWORKED APPROACH





WHY JOIN? - COLLECTIVE SECURITY

- BWC complements other WMD treaties & helps meet existing international obligations
- Attack on people, animals or agriculture with bioweapon could be even more complicated and costly than natural disease events
- Bioweapons relatively easy to develop, transfer & conceal - shared risk requires shared response
- Part of international counter-terrorism efforts
- Others could already be using your territory in contravention to ban on biological weapons



WHY JOIN? - STRENGTHENING HEALTH CAPACITY

- BWC requires States Parties to facilitate fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials & scientific information
- States Parties meet regularly to advise and assist each other in developing national capacities
- Full spectrum approach means most resources invested to deal with bioweapons also relevant to natural disease events
- Consistent with revised International Health Regulations
- 2009 meetings dedicated to building health capacity
- Opportunities for bilateral or regional assistance



WHY JOIN? - THE WIN / WIN OPTION

- Growing international consensus on universalization
- Membership growing fastest in Africa
- No financial cost involved in joining
- No waiting or qualification period
- Formal welcome by international community
- Advice, support & assistance available
- Regional partners ready & waiting for you



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Any Questions?

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