



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

Statement

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Annual Meeting of States Parties, Geneva 3-6 December 2019

Agenda item 6. (a) Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes: (a) Meeting of Experts on Cooperation and Assistance, with a Particular Focus on Strengthening Cooperation and Assistance under Article X

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan associates itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM and has a few additional comments under this agenda item.

We commend the work carried out in MX-1 this year under the able leadership of Ambassador Dolidze of Georgia. We take note of the Report contained in document BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/2, including the Annex prepared by the Chairperson, under his own responsibility, summarizing the discussions.

We attach special importance to Article X of the Convention concerning the transfer of knowledge and technology for peaceful uses of biology. The recent advances in biological sciences have opened up new avenues for the peaceful application of bio-technology as well as international cooperation in this area.

Pakistan believes that there is an urgent need for States Parties to work together to develop procedures to promote the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X. In this regard, Pakistan fully supports NAM's proposal for an "Institutional Mechanism on International Cooperation and Compliance under Article X" with a "Cooperation Committee" overseeing its work aimed at promoting dialogue and consultation aimed at full implementation of Article X.

We would also like to reinforce NAM's call for the development of an "Action Plan" which should, inter alia, lead to: (1) identify and address the needs in terms of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information regarding the use of bacteriological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes; (2) identify and overcome the obstacles hampering the effective implementation of Article X, including by addressing the denial cases; (3) mobilize the necessary resources, including financial resources, in order to facilitate the widest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information, in particular to developing States Parties; (4) facilitate the development of human resources in developing States Parties; and (5) coordinate cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

The expert-level deliberations held during this Inter-Sessional Programme have been valuable for identifying the emerging areas of commonalities. My delegation hopes that the work carried out in MX-1 will be duly taken note of, and would serve as a useful guide for the States Parties' consideration at the 9th Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
