



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. (b) Consideration of the factual reports of the
Meetings of Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible
outcomes: (b) Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the
Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention**

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 welcome the work carried out in MX-2 this year under the able leadership of Mr. Yury Nikolaichik of Belarus. We take note of the Report contained in document BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/2, including the Annex prepared by the Chairperson, under his own responsibility, summarizing the discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

The importance of reviewing the relevant science and technology related developments cannot be overstated in terms of our efforts to keep the BWC relevant and up to date. The malign use of the bio-sciences can kill humans, animals and plants, trigger wars and disrupt infrastructure. Addressing these issues necessitates continued engagement with the scientific, medical, commercial and educational communities under a States Parties-led, inclusive and representative mechanism. We have to develop a coordinated approach.

Pakistan shares the concern regarding the potential for uses contrary to the convention, due to the dual use nature of certain new technologies in life sciences. Such concerns, however, should not in any way impede the free

exchange of information and technology between States Parties. The measures to contain biological risks should be proportional to the assessed risk, without obstructing legitimate activities for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes. The potential dual nature of certain emerging technologies should not be used as a pretext for proscribing or restricting their availability, especially to developing countries.

The outcomes of the exercise being undertaken by MX-2 during the current Inter-Sessional Programme should not only lead to enhanced awareness regarding the risks posed by new technologies, but also provide impetus to increased international cooperation and sharing of such technologies for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to recall the joint Working Paper submitted by China and Pakistan on the development of a model code of conduct for biological scientists under the BWC. Having developed such a Code in our own domestic context, we believe that a voluntary Model, that is readily adaptable to different national circumstances, would be an important contribution towards enhancing bio-safety and bio-security awareness as well as ethical self-discipline among biological researchers.

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-2 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.
