



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. (c) Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes: (c) Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation

Mr. Chairman,

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

We welcome the work carried out in MX-3 this year under the able leadership of Ms. Lebogang Phihlela of South Africa. We take note of the Report contained in document BWC/MSP/2019/MX.3/2, including the Annex prepared by the Chairperson, under her own responsibility, summarizing the discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan believes that the most effective method of strengthening the Convention – including its national implementation – is through the conclusion of a legally-binding Protocol that covers all its Articles and incorporates a multilateral verification mechanism. Without prejudice to the priority that we attach to the conclusion of a legally-binding Protocol, my delegation continues to engage constructively to strengthen the Convention and enhance the balanced implementation of all its Articles.

The concept of national implementation of the Convention, as required under Article IV, requires comprehensive commitments towards compliance with all provisions of the Convention including Article X. This concept can neither be

viewed selectively, nor can it only be reduced to the regulatory aspects of the Convention. The promotional dimensions of the Convention encompassing provisions for various forms of international cooperation and assistance require equal attention and commensurate efforts for national implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

Export control measures instituted by the States Parties should be in conformity with the obligations enshrined in the Convention and must facilitate the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all its provisions. Such measures should not adversely affect the rights and obligations of States Parties under the Convention and should not lead to the creation of undue restrictions hindering the implementation of Article X. The objective of non-proliferation through export controls can be better addressed by multilaterally negotiated guidelines to preserve the integrity and the balance of the Convention. Article III of the BWC should not be used to impose limitations on exports for peaceful purposes, consistent with the objectives of the Convention on transfer of scientific knowledge, technology, equipment and materials under Article X.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan views the voluntary CBMs mechanism as a tool for increasing transparency and building trust among States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. Pakistan first submitted its CBMs in 2012. After undertaking an internal review of our CBMs submission to enhance their content and substance, we have again submitted our CBMs this year. Pakistan does not favour efforts aimed at using the CBMs as a tool for assessing compliance by States Parties, for which the only method is a multilaterally negotiated, legally-binding mechanism with verification provisions.

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-3 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.
