



**CHAIRMANSHIP
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**

**2019 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**

Geneva, 3 - 6 December 2019

Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention delivered by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Agenda Item 6: 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 (MX1)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).
2. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BTWC attaches great importance to the issue of international cooperation as the first priority of the Group. We continue to believe that there is need for an effective mechanism to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X. In this regard, the Group submitted at the Eighth Review Conference a Working Paper on compliance mechanism for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X, contained in document BWC/CONF.VIII/WP.23, and recently in document BWC/MSP/2019/MX.1/WP.6.
3. The enhancement of international cooperation for the use of biological agents for peaceful purposes is an essential part of compliance with the Convention and is crucial for the realization of the purpose and objective of the Convention.

4. The Group emphasizes the importance of overcoming sustained challenges and obstacles to international cooperation, assistance and exchange in the biological sciences and technology. In this regard, one of the main challenges for full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X is the existence of unjustified restrictions and /or limitations, including politically motivated ones imposed against States Parties inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention.
5. To this end, the challenges, obstacles and specific measures should be identified to ensure that national implementation of the Convention are taken in full conformity with the obligation under Article X.
6. Any export control measures adopted at a national level should be in full conformity with Convention obligations and create an environment conducive to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the convention, and should not in any way adversely affect the rights and obligations of the States Parties under the Convention. Non-proliferation efforts through maintaining export controls are best addressed through multilaterally, non-discriminatory negotiated guidelines to preserve the integrity and the delicate balance that exists in the Convention.
7. There should be no hindrance to peaceful activities, such as vaccine development, which are important for developing countries for meeting their public health needs. There is need for equitable benefits from international cooperation in this area, keeping in mind the need for ensuring appropriate and affordable support for developing countries. We also are of the view that the developing countries need to meet their needs for cost-effective, affordable and quality assured medicines and vaccines including through provisions such as compulsory licensing or price controls.
8. It is crucial to note that the Convention has established a system with equal rights and obligations based on the principle of equal treatment of all States Parties. Therefore, national implementation measures should not create undue restrictions among States Parties which would hinder the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BTWC look forward to engage constructively to consider and review proposals along with its principle positions during the negotiations with a view to reach a consensual outcome.

Thank you.