



**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

(c) Meeting of Experts on Strengthening National Implementation (MX3)

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 BTWC.
2. NAM stresses that the national implementation of the Convention as required under Article IV of the Convention requires commitments towards the implementation of all provisions of the Convention.
3. There are diverse national situations for each of the States Parties but their commitments and obligations under the Convention are the same. Some States Parties, especially developing countries, may require assistance and cooperation to strengthen their national capacities for the full implementation of all the provisions of the Convention. States Parties, which are in a position to provide assistance and cooperation to other States Parties in capacity building to implement the Convention, should do so, if requested.
4. NAM and other States Parties to the BWC underscore that the purpose of CBMs under the BWC as agreed by States Parties at the Second Review Conference and reconfirmed at subsequent Review Conferences is to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions and in order to improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful

biological activities. CBMs are a tool of transparency and building trust and confidence among States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. They cannot be a tool to assess compliance for which the only method is a legally binding mechanism with verification provisions.

5. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BTWC believe that CBMs are a voluntary provisional tool of transparency in the implementation of the Convention until the adoption of a legally binding instrument with verification provisions. They cannot be a tool to assess compliance for which the only method is a legally binding mechanism with verification provisions. The Group emphasizes that CBMs shall in full conformity with the decisions made in previous Review Conferences, be dealt with under article V and should be reflected in the factual report of this MX accordingly.
6. NAM and other States Parties would like to emphasize that all States Parties are obliged to take measures for national implementation of the Convention by virtue of them being Parties to the Convention. They do so by enacting national laws, regulations, policies and other measures and initiatives in accordance with their constitutional requirements.
7. In an international legal instrument such as the BWC, the assurance of compliance with the Convention's provisions has to be undertaken collectively through appropriate multilateral verification arrangements. In the past, useful work has been done in this regard under the BWC in the Ad-hoc Group, and NAM continues to attach high importance to preserving and eventually resuming that work.
8. The growing trend of various national implementation practices, in the deficiency of the verification mechanism for BTWC, have created different national levels of restrictions, barriers and/or limitations for legitimate trade and transfer of biological agents and toxins, equipment, materials and related technologies for peaceful purposes. Inequitable national implementation models intrinsically create obstacles for developing countries to manage their public health needs. Consequently, any national implementation measure should be in proportion to public health issues to facilitate, but not hinder the fullest possible exchange for peaceful purposes in implementing Article X.
9. NAM and other States Parties to the BWC are of the firm belief the States Parties have the obligation towards the implementation of all provisions of the Convention. To this end, an appropriate mechanism is needed to ensure that laws and regulations of the States Parties do not hinder international exchange and cooperation under Article X and allows for the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and technology for peaceful purposes among States Parties.

Thank you.