



**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

(d) Meeting of Experts on Assistance, Response and Preparedness (MX4)

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 strongly reaffirms that national preparedness of States Parties and their prompt access to new methods and novel diagnostic technologies and equipment for detection and quick response to any possible biological attack or diseases outbreaks play an important role in providing assistance to States Parties. The rapid pace of novel bio-threats against humans, animals and plants requires rapid responses and enhanced national capacity prior to any biological attacks against the States Parties.
3. Although this Article has not been yet invoked, the international community should be prepared to face such situation well in advance and to dispatch emergency assistance in case of use of bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons, and also to provide humanitarian assistance in case of the threat of use of such weapons, to the requesting State Party. Assistance undertakings and support should be commensurate with effective actions that ensure timely coordination and delivery of assistance to the victim State Party in conformity with the request for assistance.

4. The Group notes the working paper (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.3) submitted by South Africa to the MX4 outlining that assistance in accordance with Article VII would be additional to and following the assistance provided by international organizations and should be humanitarian in nature
5. To this end, a detailed procedure and mechanism for a timely, effective and adequate response needs to be developed. In this context, the NAM presented elements to be considered in the development of such a mechanism, on the Meeting of Experts, in August, contain in document BWC/MSP/2019/MX.4/WP.7.
6. The Group notes the working paper (BWC/MSP/2018/MX.4/WP.4) submitted by South Africa that an application for assistance in terms of Article VII, independent of United Nations Security Council approval, raises some practical questions and also lists information that should be provided in a request for assistance. The Group notes some of the issues raised in the South African working paper may require further discussion and decision by the States Parties to help in the strengthening of the implementation of Article VII of the Convention.
7. In conclusion, let me highlight that the main objective of this Article is to provide assistance to the affected people and to minimize and contain the risks to the health, safety and security of others, in close collaboration with the exposed State Party. However, the best way to prevent such incidents is to ensure full compliance with the prohibition on the development, stockpiling and use of such weapons, including through the establishment of a compliance and verification mechanism under the Convention.

Thank you.