

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

13 December 2023

English only

2023 Meeting
Geneva, 11–13 December 2023

Statement of the Delegation of Thailand

Submitted by Thailand

Mr. Chairman,

Thailand associates itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM and the statement delivered by the Philippines on behalf of ASEAN.

Let me start by congratulating you on your chairmanship. Thailand is confident that under your able leadership, the meeting will be a success. We also wish to express our appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their untiring dedication and excellent works.

We take note of **your report on the Universalization** and commend the **efforts to promote the Universalization** of the BWC undertaken by all stakeholders. In this regard, we welcome South Sudan, the 185th State Party to the Convention. Thailand encourages those who are not yet the Parties, to join us.

Despite certain positive developments, we still have to work on making the Convention **relevant** amidst the rapid development of science and technology and emerging new actors of biological activities. Thailand welcomes the establishment of **the Working Group on Strengthening BWC** and wishes to reiterate the importance of preserving **its inclusivity** to ensure that all stakeholders, including international organizations, NGOs and academic can contribute their expertise and knowledge on the **intersecting issues** of life sciences, viruses, infectious disease, and other related areas to the work of the Working Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The Covid-19 pandemic reveals a glaring gap in the effective implementation of the Convention, **a balance between the prohibition of biological weapons and promotion of peaceful use under the BWC**. In this connection, we agree with other speakers that the establishment mechanisms on international cooperation and assistance and review of scientific and technological development are two crucial pieces that can fill the said gap.

In addition, BWC effective implementation at national and international levels are strengthened and secured by the strong compliance. This must start at home through **the effective national implementation**. In this regard, it is our honour for our expert to serve as one of Friends of Chair of the Working Group on this topic.

In this regard, Thailand wishes to underscore our key priorities as follows:

First, **verification measures must be legally binding and not substituted by the voluntary confidence building measures**. Furthermore, while carrying out such measures, state sovereignty, intellectual property rights, commercial confidential information, as well as national security should also be taken into consideration.



Second, the international community must not lose sight of the multifaced and transnational nature of biological threats. Thailand supports the call for **the greater collaboration among all stakeholders, especially through the international cooperation and assistance under Article X**, to address various challenges including those that are derived from the impacts of technological developments. We stress the importance of knowledge sharing, technological transfer and capacity building.

Lastly, it is imperative for States Parties to strengthen their efforts to follow **the roadmap** toward the 10th Review Conference and make sure that all relevant issues will be settled, if not still unsolved, the pending issues, including verification and compliance, as well as the establishment of necessary mechanisms, must be kept on the agenda of the BWC.

In closing, Thailand wishes to reiterate our commitments to the BWC. We stand ready to work with all stakeholders towards the world safe from biological threats.

Thank you.
