

# 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

## National Statement by the Republic of Singapore

### Submitted by the Republic of Singapore

1. First and foremost, let me congratulate you, Ambassador Christian **Espinosa** Cañizares on your appointment as the Chairman of the Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). You have my delegation's full support.

Mr Chair,

Distinguished Colleagues,

2. Singapore associates with the ASEAN statement and would like to make additional remarks in our national capacity.

3. The BWC is a cornerstone in the multilateral disarmament regime, as the sole international treaty that prohibits biological and toxin weapons. With 185 States Parties, it is testament to the collective will of the global community in eradicating the threat of biological and toxin weapons. On this note, Singapore welcomes South Sudan's accession to the BWC.

4. Consensus-building has never been an easy task, and all the more challenging in this troubled geopolitical climate. It was disappointing that the 9<sup>th</sup> Review Conference failed to make substantive progress despite the various useful proposals submitted by States. Nonetheless, we welcome the refreshed intersessional programme that revived discussions on Compliance and Verification, while continuing important discussions on International Cooperation and Assistance, as well as Science and Technology Developments.

5. Singapore would like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Flávio Soares **Damico** of Brazil for his stewardship at the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention, and the Friends of the Chair for taking on the difficult yet crucial responsibility of bridging the various proposals. We are heartened by the active discussions, and look forward to making further strides towards convergence at future meetings.

Mr Chair,

6. Singapore remains dedicated to implementing our treaty obligations. This commitment is demonstrated through our regular submission of annual Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU). We also maintain a robust biosafety and biosecurity regime, underpinned by the Biological Agents and Toxins Act (BATA), and undertake continuous efforts to review and update legislation and procedures to ensure their relevance and alignment with international best practices.

7. The interconnected nature of global biosecurity demands a collective response. In this regard, Singapore is committed to building up regional capacity, and working closely with the international community to strengthen our ability to address threats in the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear domain. Singapore is a member of the Network of ASEAN Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) Defence Experts, and will be hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting later this week, from 14 to 15 Dec 2023. Just last month, we also



hosted the Workshop on Detection, Response, and Deterrence of Biological and Radiological Incidents from 30 Oct to 3 Nov 2023. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centre of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

8. Singapore reaffirms our commitment to the goal of the BWC – to achieve a world free of biological weapons. We stress the importance of collective action towards this goal, and look forward to constructive discussions.

9. Thank you.

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