

**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 by H.E. Mr. Latsamy KEOMANY, Ambassador  
and Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR, Head of the  
Lao PDR's Delegation. At General Debate of the States  
Parties Meeting of the Biological Weapons Convention  
(BWC), Geneva, on 11-13 December 2023**

**Submitted by Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson for the floor.

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Cristian Espinosa Cañizares, on your election as the Chair to the States Parties Meeting of the Biological Weapons Convention and I reaffirm my delegation's full support.

2. The Lao PDR aligns itself with both NAM and ASEAN Statements.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

3. Our today's meeting is very timely, as the international community continues to face multiple challenges such as rising geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts which pose major threats to the global peace and security. Moreover, different political point of views among states have hindered biological disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. The Lao PDR is deeply concerned over the proliferation and modernization of these weapons of mass destruction as it poses serious threats to international peace and security. Therefore, the Lao PDR always attaches great importance to the issues related to Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as they are important components of international legal architecture towards the elimination of weapon of mass destruction (WMD).

4. In this connection, the Lao PDR supports the establishment of the Working Group on Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention and recognizes the necessity of multilateral negotiations. We also recognize that the lack of verification system continues to pose challenges to the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. Therefore, the Lao PDR underscores that the multilateral negotiations among States Parties leading to a non-discriminatory-legally-binding protocol that applicable with all Articles of the convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner are needed.

5. The Lao PDR is of the view that in order to strengthen the BWC to address biological risks among States Parties, we must ensure the effectiveness of the Convention itself and improve its implementation. By doing these, we will be able to promote the development in science and technology, and to cope with both the proliferation related issues and the threat of use of biological agents or toxins for terrorist purposes. Moreover, only political will and a strong commitment to multilateralism shown by all States Parties can help to overcome these challenges at the national, regional and international levels.



**Mr. Chairperson,**

6. The Lao PDR recognizes the importance and decisive role of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to strengthen the cooperation and information exchanges among States Parties and BWC ISU, in order to build trust and transparency among BWC States Parties. In this connection, last April, the Lao PDR submitted our Third National CBMs Report to the BWC-ISU and we call upon other States Parties to do so.

7. The Lao PDR is strongly committed to the BWC and will continue to contribute to the strengthening of Biological Weapons Convention. It is our firm belief that a strong international legal framework constitutes the cornerstone for further advancing biological weapons and complements to other existing international instruments. At our country level, the Lao PDR has invested its utmost efforts to fulfill our international obligations by fully adhering to the CWC, BWC, UNSC Resolution 1540 and elaborating national legislations and guidelines on biosafety and biosecurity and other related CBRN programs. My delegation believes that the outcome of this States Parties Meeting will lay a more solid ground for the international community to uphold and fulfill our obligations under the BWC.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

8. The Lao PDR appreciates the role of the Sponsorship Program in enabling developing countries to participate in various BWC meetings and trainings and we encourage this Sponsorship Program to be continued.

9. To conclude, I would like to reiterate the Lao PDR's commitment to work closely with all member states to advance the BWC to a greater height in order to achieve a secured and peaceful world. We look forward to the constructive engagement during this States Parties Meeting and wish the Meeting a great success.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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