

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

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Statement of Georgia

Submitted by Georgia

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers and congratulate you Ambassador Cristian Espinoza Cañizares on your nomination as the Chair of this year's Meeting of states parties. I assure you of our full support and commitment to the success of this conference.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Additionally, I would like to add following remarks in my national capacity.

We believe that the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) is one of the major pillars of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is a fundamental tool of the international architecture prohibiting biological weapons and every possible effort should be made to strengthen it and ensure its full and effective implementation. We are delighted that the membership of the Convention has increased. However, the only international legal instrument dealing with biological disarmament and non-proliferation is not yet universal.

In these uncertain and troubling circumstances, it is more important than ever for international community to act in the spirit of unity. Universalization of internationally agreed mechanisms and deep devotion to these instruments and obligations are of utmost importance in this condition.

Georgia plays its essential role in supporting global security architecture by demonstrating its commitment to the international instruments and implementing their requirements at a national and International level. Georgia is a party to the all major disarmament treaties and regimes, which play important role in improving biosafety and biosecurity in the region.

It is worth to mention, that the National Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Council of Georgia with active involvement of EU, US and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), elaborated and the Government adopted the National CBRN Threat Reduction Strategy and action plan for 2021-2030.

Dear Colleagues,

Georgia believes that effective national implementation remains the cornerstone of the BWC. Confidence building measures mechanism has become an important tool to promote implementation of the Convention and to share experiences and best practices in this regard. We view the voluntary demonstration of national implementation of the Convention as an important instrument to boost confidence in States Parties' compliance with the BTWC commitments.



We consider CBM as a crucial instrument for enhancing transparency and building confidence. At the same time, Georgia welcomes that participation in the CBMs has gradually and steadily increased since their establishment.

Georgia supports to further confidence building measures such as peer review exercises, voluntary visits and other initiatives that contribute to enhance transparency. It is obvious that these kind of activities serve as confidence-building measure, as well as effective tool for quality control, a forum for sharing best practices and capacity building. In this context, Richard Lugar Center for Public Health Research/National Center for Disease Control and Public Health should be noted, which hosted several activities with this regard. These gatherings provide scientists from different countries with the opportunity to gain insights into the center's research activities as well.

International cooperation and assistance are essential to support States Parties in their capacity building efforts, particularly in the domains of biosecurity and biosafety. In this context, we are proud of the fruitful cooperation with the US, Germany and other partners, which brought concrete, tangible results in terms of further enhancement of the biosafety and biosecurity in Georgia.

We fully support the establishment of a Science and Technology Review mechanism, which has gained widespread support from States Parties in recent years. We believe that such mechanism would benefit States Parties, especially those with limited resources for scientific and technological research.

Mr. Chair,

In closing, let me again assure you of my delegation's full support. Georgia is ready to work in a constructive way for a successful Conference.
