

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

Submitted by Philippines

Mister Chair,

My delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of this esteemed meeting. My delegation also extends its gratitude to the Vice Chairs, the bureau, and the ISU for their diligence and invaluable work.

We associate ourselves with the statement of ASEAN Member States.

The Philippines upholds and is steadfast in its commitment to the strengthening of global governance structures that prohibit the use and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This commitment is rooted in the Filipino people's aspiration to be free from the threat of WMDs and to chart a path towards sustainable growth and development that includes harnessing the potential of the life sciences as well as technology.

The Philippines actively participates at all levels to effectively and comprehensively implement as well as fulfill all its commitments and obligations to the Biological Weapons Convention. On a multilateral level, the Philippines was tasked by the presidency of the 9th Review Conference to facilitate coordination and deliberations on international cooperation and assistance to help lead in the drafting of the outcome document. We remain committed to continuing the positive momentum in this regard.

At the regional level, the Philippines has organized relevant projects and activities through the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Manila-based CBRN Centre of Excellence in Southeast Asia to embed the Convention's goals firmly in the regional agenda. We also participate actively in other regional efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, such as in the recently held Regional Workshop on Promoting BWC Confidence Building Measures in Southeast Asia, held in Bangkok, Thailand in October this year.

On the national level, the Philippines remains committed to the UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and in view of the objective to effectively implement this Resolution, we established a Strategic Trade Management Office, which implements our relevant non-proliferation obligations. We have also operationalized the Biological Weapons Convention through a whole-of-government approach to carry out the CBRN National Action Plan, which aims to reduce the threat of, and damage from CBRN incidents of accidental, natural, and intentional origin, including terrorist acts.

The Philippines also aims to continue its consistent submission of its reports on the BWC Confidence Building Measures and urges other States Parties to do so.

We also acknowledge and commend the role of scientists, scholars, and civil society in providing expertise and technical contributions to advance the mandate of the Convention.



Mister Chair,

No aspiration nor ambition can justify the use of biological weapons. While we recognize the challenges to the full and effective implementation of the Convention, we are convinced that with collective political will, States Parties can take decisive steps to uphold the significance of this Convention, continue to strengthen it, and affirm its place as a robust platform for disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

We will work with all States Parties to realize the decisions of the Ninth Review Conference and achieve consensus on practical and substantive measures, including an inter-sessional process that is balanced, comprehensive, purpose-driven, and results-oriented. We will support steps towards stronger national implementation, and bring the Convention and the ISU on sound financial ground.

Furthermore, we welcome the recent discussions on important matters in the BWC, especially on compliance and verification after decades since it was last discussed. While we look forward to deeper discussions and fruitful outcomes of the working group meetings leading up to the next review conference, we reiterate the importance of eventually having a comprehensive legally binding protocol that deals with all Articles of the Convention in a balanced manner and includes verification and compliance mechanisms.

I, thank you, Mister Chair.
