

**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**

14 December 2023

English only

2023 Meeting  
Geneva, 11–13 December 2023

**Statement by the Permanent Mission of Türkiye  
Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on the  
Prohibition of The Development, Production and Stockpiling  
of Biological and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction (11-  
13 December 2023, Geneva)**

**Submitted by Türkiye**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Meeting of States Parties. You have the full support of our delegation.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Damico, who ensured that the views of all parties were compiled and presented via cross-regional representatives appointed as "Friends of the Chair" and created the most appropriate environment possible in the working group meetings thanks to his wit and diplomatic experience.

Mr. President,

Türkiye considers the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention a fundamental component of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

We believe that the establishment of a verification regime would be beneficial for the objective of the Convention. Türkiye believes that an improved system like that of the Chemical Weapons Convention could increase its efficacy.

We are of the opinion that a direct link to UNSGM will increase the reliability of the future verification system, encourage effective responses to alleged violations, and facilitate the identification of the origin of a biological phenomenon.

Mindful of the differences of opinion on the issue, States Parties should focus on strengthening the Convention's existing mechanisms.

We are pleased with the decision taken at the 9th RevCon to establish the Working Group tasked with giving recommendations for mechanisms on international cooperation and assistance and science and technology.

There is a need for a more focused evaluation of developments in the field of science and technology, especially to determine the following steps to be taken. In spite of the current geopolitical environment, we hope that a consensus can be reached on such a mechanism.

CBM reports are indispensable tools for mutual understanding and transparency as they aim to prevent and reduce compliance-related uncertainties. We welcome the increase in the number of reports. However, despite the improvement, almost half of States Parties still do not report. In light of last week's discussions we should work on ways to increase the number of submissions. First-time submitters require our particular attention and support.



Türkiye has regularly submitted its CBM reports. We continue to encourage all States Parties to do the same.

We agree that the ISU could provide further guidance to the States Parties to submit their reports via the electronic CBM facility.

Mr. President,

Türkiye is aware that unprecedented scientific and technological developments may also bring many adverse effects. Globalization and information technology make scientific knowledge more accessible; this increases the likelihood of possible abuse by malicious individuals or organizations, including terrorists.

Easy access to materials, technology, and know-how regarding different forms of weapons of mass destruction has been a major cause for concern for the entire international community.

Mr. President,

Türkiye attaches great importance to Article 10 of the Convention, which allows States Parties to cooperate peacefully in preventing such risks, developing capacity against biological threats and epidemics, and exchanging equipment, materials, and information.

The Pandemic is a stark reminder of what is at stake. We believe implementing this article will build trust among the international community and improve capacities to prevent and control natural, accidental or deliberate epidemics.

International cooperation is equally central to achieving universalization goals. Türkiye's geographical location makes universalization a vital issue for us. Unfortunately, some states not party to the Convention are located in areas of regional instability, giving rise to additional concerns.

In order to support financial stability of the BWC, we made a voluntary contribution to the Working Capital Fund (WCF).

We are pleased that South Sudan has joined the Convention. For universalization, Türkiye calls on all states not parties to the BWC to join without further delay.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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