

**BWC MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
10–14 December 2012**

Monday 10 December, Morning session

Transcription

ARGENTINA

First of all allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairperson of the meetings on the Biological Weapons Convention in 2012. I commend you for the excellent work that you and your team have carried out in preparing this annual Meeting of States Parties. You can rest assured that you will have the full collaboration of my delegation as you carry out your work this week.

I would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to highlight the work that the Implementation Support Unit has been carrying out in assisting States Parties to develop the level of professionalism this instrument requires.

After the Seventh Review Conference held last December, 2012 is a year that is going to be very relevant in terms of the fact that our new intersessional cycle is beginning.

This Conference will help us to renew the commitments of States Parties to the purposes and objectives of the Convention. Political will will also help to continue the process to strengthen this valuable instrument through periodic meetings. Those meetings will reflect the specific agendas and mandates that will facilitate not only understanding among States Parties, but also the development of future recommendations in the Eighth Review Conference.

The possibility of addressing whether recurring issues must be discussed annually or biannually will be very important for us as we move forward. First of all I would like to talk about cooperation and assistance of States Parties. These are pillars of the Convention that, at the same time, present challenges. In doing so, one of those challenges is the adherence to commitments made under the Convention. The development of databases has responded to a long-held wish to create concrete mechanisms to exchange information and technology among States without hindering economic development.

We believe that your synthesis document provides a list of issues that will facilitate identification of commitments and responsibilities that States must assume in order to fully implement the provisions of Article X. Guaranteeing the exchange of equipment and technology, developing training for personnel in the areas of biosecurity and biosafety, as well as bearing in mind the progress made in other organizations such as the WHO, are undoubtedly steps in the right direction.

I did not want to address this issue without emphasizing the fact that technological cooperation, be it multilateral or bilateral, is an incentive to achieve the objectives of universalizing this Convention. That is why we believe we must continue to focus on this issue in our forthcoming

meetings on the Convention. We are very satisfied in that regard with the recent accession by the Marshall Islands to the Convention.

With regard to science and technology, we believe that the possibility that has been put forward to address the issue of education and awareness-raising is very positive: this includes voluntary codes of conduct. Codes of conduct should be seen both as a means of raising awareness of the potential for improper use of biological weapons, as well as a tool for educational programmes in the scientific and academic fields. It is obvious that this issue requires more cooperation in the scientific and academic community. The governmental sector can work in this area as well. My country has been carrying out a number of activities in accordance with its obligations under the Convention.

Argentina believes that the efforts that have been made in the area of national implementation also involve efforts to address all the aspects that have been mentioned and it will be necessary to continue working on controls in the area of transfers, biosafety and biosecurity and training as well. In this regard international cooperation is fundamental as well as cooperation at the regional and bilateral level.

Finally we would like to mention Confidence-Building Measures. This is a mechanism that we have participated in since its outset. We are very pleased and we welcome the advances that have been made in the last Review Conference. We hope that in this intersessional period we will continue to adapt this important tool so that we can ensure greater participation by States Parties. At the national level, Argentina is periodically updating its information-gathering mechanism to comply with the requirements on the basis of lessons learned. It is improving its methodology for gathering information from laboratories and research centres, both public and private.

Finally, allow me to conclude by wishing this meeting every success and reiterating the full cooperation of my delegation.