

**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**

**Geneva, 10 – 14 December 2012**

**Statement**

**Cooperation and assistance under Article X (agenda item 6)**

**Delegation of Germany**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. Please allow me to express our appreciation to see you presiding over this meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention. We are confident that owing to your given skills, knowledge and experience, you will be able to steer our work to achieve the objectives of this Meeting of State Parties as you had done in July during the Meeting of Experts. You can be assured of the full support of the German delegation.

Germany supports international cooperation and assistance in the field of life sciences and fully supports the statement of the European Union on this agenda item.

Germany values the importance of Article X of the Convention. This article has to be looked at in light of the objectives and purpose of the BTWC which is the complete exclusion of the possibility of microbiological agents and toxins being used as weapons.

I would like to underline that Germany undertakes a wide range of activities to implement Articles X by both bilateral and multilateral programs which cover for example the field of bio-security and bio-safety, specific partnerships and scholarships. As of 2013 a new

comprehensive program will be launched to support the aims of Articles X. It will run for several years and intensify existing cooperation as well as establish new cooperation projects with a variety of partner countries.

Germany welcomes the establishment of the assistance database and contributed to this database. Germany welcomes any additional requests for support and State Parties are encouraged to approach Germany either through the database or directly.

Germany believes that full and effective implementation of the BTWC is fully in line with an export control system. Export control is consistent with the obligations undertaken under the BTWC, especially in view of the existing terrorist threat.

In addition, Germany would like to thank you for your synthesis paper reflecting the discussions at the July Meeting of Experts. Germany considers this paper to be a useful element for our deliberations during the Meeting of State Parties this week. Germany regards the BTWC as a comprehensive document. We believe that the synthesis paper emphasizes the Article X slightly more than other parts of the convention.

We can generally go along with its elements on Article X. We would, however, have difficulties with endorsing some of its elements, such as those under I.3. c and d. In that respect, we would like to echo the statements made by several colleagues, in particular those by the esteemed Ambassadors of the UK and the Netherlands.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.