



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**General Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
by Dr. Mohammad Hassan Daryaei  
before the Meeting of States Parties of the BWC  
(10 December 2012)

At the outset allow me to congratulate you for the assumption of the chairmanship of the meeting of States Parties to the BWC in the new inter-sessional program in 2012. Your diplomatic skills and able leadership in conducting the Meeting of Experts held last July in which states parties as the only player in the inter-sessional program shared their national experiences through exchange of views between their relevant experts and entities, gives everybody the confidence that we will also have fruitful discussions in the Meeting of States Parties that would fit well in the mandate of Inter-sessional Program. I assure you the full support of my delegation in discharging your important tasks.

I would like to associate my self with the statement just delivered on behalf of the Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BWC. We fully support all the important elements of that statement.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the multilaterally negotiated instruments on Weapons of Mass Destruction including BWC which are essential for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security. The BWC was established with the main objective of the total ban and elimination of bacteriological and toxin weapons but it has yet to ascertain the full achievement of this goal. We believe that the only sustainable way for regime building in the BWC and strengthening this convention is through the legally binding instrument to comprehensively strengthen the convention including in the area of international cooperation for peaceful purposes.

We also believe that the effective contribution of the convention to international and regional peace and security would be enhanced through universal adherence to the convention; therefore the Universality of the Convention is of high importance. In this vein my delegation takes note the efforts by you Mr. Chairman and your Vice Chairs to promote the universality of the Convention. We hope that your report on this issue would be promising and wish you, every success in this regard so that we can witness more new parties to the Convention, in particular the advance one in biotechnology in the Middle East region whose non-adherence to the BWC poses a serious threat to the regional and international peace and security.

We are of the view that the international community should exert pressure on the non-signatories in particular the Israeli Regime to accede to the Convention without further delay. In this context we support the adoption of an action plan comprising of concrete measures with targeted timelines for ensuring the universality of the Convention. We are also of the firm belief that pending the accession of the non-signatories to the convention, States Parties shall refrain from any transfer of biological agents, toxins, equipment, materials, technology to them.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X, as one of the main pillars of the Convention, is essential to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention. In this context we welcome the decision of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference to include cooperation and assistance as one of the standing agenda items, with a particular focus on strengthening Article X implementation. The inter-sessional meetings were mandated by the review conference to address including inter alia the challenges and obstacles to developing international cooperation. The main challenge in this regard is the existence of unjustified politically motivated restrictions posed against States Parties in contravention with the provisions of the Convention. For many years States Parties in particular developing countries have suffered from the systematic denial of the inalienable right of States Parties to exchange equipment, materials, technology for the use of the biological agents and toxin for peaceful purposes. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that any politically motivated measures such as arbitrary limitations and restrictions on the transfer, development and promotion of equipments, materials and scientific and technological knowledge, would hamper the economic and technological progress of States Parties and clearly violate Article X of the Convention. We believe that there is an urgent need for the establishment of a mechanism on Article X; in this vein we supported the NAM Working Paper on Article X. This mechanism should be based on a non discriminatory multilaterally negotiated and universally acceptable approach to the transfer of biological items and technology for peaceful purposes, including by the adoption of multilaterally negotiated Guidelines specifying legal obligations of all parties, the denial redress procedures and devising remedial measures for the rejected cases. It should also perform the tasks outlined in the action plan proposed by NAM Working Paper.

The issues of capacity building through international cooperation, bridging the ever increasing gap between the developed and developing countries, finding effective ways and means to target and mobilize resources for international cooperation and the free and unlimited exchange of science and technologies in the context of the convention are of utmost importance for improving the national implementation of the convention by all Parties.

the mandate of this inter-sessional program is examining different ways to enable fuller participation in the CBMs. The CBMs mechanism as a voluntary measure established with purpose of enhancing the confidence among States Parties. We have also participated in this process. However, we do share the view that the CBMs shall not constitute a mechanism for verification of compliance. It should not impose additional burden on States Parties. The interest of States Parties to submit

their annual reports on the CBMs may diminish, if they feel that the provision of this information would not contribute to the increasing confidence and subsequently promoting of international cooperation.

We are pleased that after painstaking negotiations and many compromises by states parties we reached a successful conclusion of the Seventh Review Conference. Its final document represent a delicate balance regarding, structure, modality and substantial different issues of the BWC in the next inter-sessional period from 2012-15 including by agreement on continuation of the past inter-sessional structure, following the same objective of the past inter-sessional program which is to discuss, and promote common understanding and effective action on the pre-defined issues, maintaining the same modalities for report writing for the MX and MSP, absence of any decision making power in the inter-sessional program as any decisions for further action on the outcome of the meetings in the inter-sessional program will be taken by the next Review Conference, and creation of hierarchy between the different issues on the Agenda by dividing them to two categories of Standing Agenda items to be discussed during the next 5 years and biannual agenda items for two years discussion. We are sure that under your able leadership and by the cooperative mood of all parties we will strictly adhere to these elements in the entire current inter-sessional program.

Pursuing very offensive bio-defense programs and involvement in the cases like H5N1 that affect many articles of the convention by some countries and at the same time embarking on unrealistic approaches and opening the fractious debates of the Review conference like the issue of Peer Review and trying to tilt the delicate balance of its final document by them would only complicate the discussions in the inter-sessional program and adversely affect the goal of reaching common understanding. The Inter-sessional program shall be directed towards the strengthening of the Convention in its entirety. It shall not lead to the selective implementation of the Convention. The overlooked Articles of the Convention like full effective and non discriminatory implementation of the Article X and article VII shall be the core issues on this process

**Mr. Chairman,**

Having said that, I would like to re-emphasize that the BWC is the cornerstone of the regime for total ban all biological and toxic weapons and its mandate is clear. Therefore any efforts that could lead to the mixture of the mandates of this convention with other international organizations using some of the overlapping areas between activities related to this convention and other international organizations is not acceptable.

We hope that the Meeting of States Parties provides an opportunity for the Parties to faithfully share their national experiences to enhance understanding and knowledge on various topics on the agenda, which is conducive to increasing common understanding for greater cooperation among States Parties for the implementation of the Convention. We would elaborate our positions regarding the standing agenda items as well as the biennial topic later on this week.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.