



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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before the Meeting of States Parties of the BWC

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-Statement on the CBM

As it was previously stated by my delegation, annual exchange of information regime established in 1986 and improved in 1991 with the aim of increasing transparency and reducing the ambiguities and doubts and the CBMs as a voluntary measure would lead to enhance 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 voluntarily 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. As the mandate of this inter-sessional program is examining different ways to enable fuller participation in the CBMs, we encourage the State Parties to take the necessary measures to secure its universality, including through providing the incentives by promoting the international cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities and by adhering strictly to the concept of

confidence building and its associated objective of transparency. We are hopeful that this issue will not blow out of its proportionality in a manner that complicates the continuation of the whole process which is voluntary.

We actively participated in the negotiations regarding amendments to the CBMs forms at the 7th review conference which resulted in agreement on this issue in a constructive spirit shown by all States Parties. We believe that there is a need to allow time to the national stakeholders to adjust themselves to the amended forms and let the amendments to seep in to the national institutions. These amendments were aimed at increasing the number of States Parties which submit CBMs forms. On the other hand the mandate for discussing this issue as agreed in the 7th Review Conference is “how to enable fuller participation in the CBMs”. This mandate is clear that the aim of the exercise is to increase the number of States Parties making CBMs submissions.