



**STATEMENT BY**

**MS TATYANA NOVOSSIOLOVA**

**ON BEHALF OF LANDAU NETWORK CENTRO VOLTA, ITALY**

**THE NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDICAL COLLEGE, JAPAN**

**AND**

**UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD, UK**

**TO**

**THE 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**

**Monday, 10 December 2012**

Mr Chairman, Mr Vice Chairman and Distinguished Representatives. It is a great honour to be invited to make a Statement to the Meeting of the State Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention which I am doing on behalf of the Landau Network Centro Volta in Italy, the National Defense Medical College in Japan and the Division of Peace Studies of the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom and with the endorsement of the Vice-President of the National Defence Medical College.

Mr Chairman

The States Parties agreed at the Seventh Review Conference that the Intersessional Process 2012-2015 should address three Standing Agenda Items. The Standing Agenda Item on cooperation and assistance includes the topic:

*(e) education, training, exchange and twinning programmes and other means of developing human resources in the biological sciences and technology relevant to the implementation of the Convention, particularly in developing countries;*

*(f) capacity-building, through international cooperation, in biosafety and biosecurity, and for detecting, reporting, and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease or biological weapons attacks, including in the areas of preparedness, response, and crisis management and mitigation; [Emphasis added]*

The Standing Agenda Item on scientific and technological developments includes the topic:

*(e) education and awareness-raising about risks and benefits of life sciences and biotechnology. [Emphasis added]*

And, the Standing Agenda Item on strengthening national implementation includes the topic:

*(d) national, regional and international measures to improve laboratory biosafety and security of pathogens and toxins; [Emphasis added]*

It is therefore evident that education and measures to strengthen biosafety and biosecurity are central to the consideration of the three Standing Agenda Items in the current Intersessional Process.

Mr Chairman

We recall that Working Paper No.20 '*Possible Approaches to Education and Awareness-Raising among Life Scientists*'<sup>1</sup> submitted to the Seventh Review Conference noted that there

---

<sup>1</sup>Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Switzerland (on behalf of the "JACKSNNZ"<sup>2</sup>), Kenya, Pakistan, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, The Seventh Review Conference 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, 5-22 December 2011, *Possible Approaches to Education and Awareness-Raising among*

is 'generally limited level of awareness [of bioethics and biosecurity risks] among life scientists in numerous institutions in numerous countries'. The Working Paper went on to emphasise:

*that the frequent lack of awareness of aspects related to biosecurity and the obligations of the Convention among life scientists has to be addressed more urgently, strategically, and comprehensively;*

We look forward to seeing this being addressed urgently, strategically and comprehensively in the Report of **this** Meeting of States Parties as well as being carried forward decisively in the coming years.

We would like to bring to your attention, several initiatives related to biosecurity education and awareness-raising:

- The European Biosecurity Awareness Raising Network (EUBARnet)<sup>2</sup> coordinated by the Landau Network Centro Volta connects universities and organizations in Europe on raising awareness of biosecurity among young life scientists. The EUBARnet experience shows that a networking approach among scientific institutions has the potential of successfully engaging scientists, building a common ownership of the process, and improving sustainability.
- The ISIS Tempus Euro-Mediterranean Master in Neurosciences and Biotechnology<sup>3</sup> is coordinated by the University of Bordeaux and partnered by eleven universities as well as the Landau Network Centro Volta. It is a new EU-funded scientific curriculum including a mandatory module on Bioethics, Biosecurity and Laws that integrates training on dual-use and security implications of biochemical neuroscience.
- Alongside the compulsory biosecurity education at the National Defense Medical College in Japan over the last five years, some structural efforts to promote biosecurity awareness-raising have been taken in Japan. The committee on dual-use issues of the Science Council of Japan is developing a code of conduct about dual-use issues for life scientists and technologists and the Centre for Research and Development Strategy of the Japan Science and Technology Agency has established a biosecurity experts network working on education.
- Since September 2010 the University of Bradford has been delivering a 30-credit Master-level online distance-learning train-the-trainer programme in Applied Dual-

---

*Life Scientists*, BWC/CONF.VII/WP.20, 1 November 2011. Available at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/643/57/PDF/G1164357.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>2</sup> EUBARnet is co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight Against Crime Programme (ISEC) of the Directorate-General Home Affairs of the European Commission. Information is available at [www.eubarnet.eu](http://www.eubarnet.eu).

<sup>3</sup> Information about the ISIS project is available at [www.isis-master.org](http://www.isis-master.org).

Use Biosecurity.<sup>4</sup> The course seeks to promote biosecurity competency and awareness of the legal, ethical and social implications of biotechnology.

- The University of Bradford has also recently developed the National Series – a country-specific set of lectures providing an introduction to biosecurity in the Middle East, North Africa and the States of the Former Soviet Union.
- The University of Bradford has launched an annual international meeting on biosecurity education; the second of these meetings was held in July 2012 at the University of Bradford, attracting speakers and delegates from Europe, the UK and North America.

Mr Chairman

However, given the crucial role of education and awareness-raising on the biosecurity risks associated with activities in the life sciences, it is important to develop a **comprehensive policy framework** to correct the existing deficiency in biosecurity competence and ensure sustainability. In this regard, the nuclear security education experience provides a valuable model (as detailed in Bradford Briefing Paper No. 5<sup>5</sup> which I will present at the Breakfast Meeting on Wednesday morning), as it highlights the need for **state-led** initiatives and **international cooperation** in the field of biosecurity education. Most importantly, the model suggests that the efforts to foster a culture of responsibility in the life sciences need to be underpinned by an **internationally-coordinated action, adequate financial support and long-term strategic planning**. Only in this way will it be possible to ensure that attempts at hostile misuse of life science knowledge and materials are effectively discouraged and prevented and that the life sciences continue to generate benefits for peaceful, prophylactic and preventive purposes.

We urge you to incorporate the sense of this important common understanding in the report of this Meeting.

Thank you, Mr Chairman and Distinguished Representatives.

---

<sup>4</sup> Information about the University of Bradford projects is available at <http://www.brad.ac.uk/bioethics/>.

<sup>5</sup> Tatyana Novossiolova and Graham S. Pearson, *Biosecurity Education for the Life Sciences: Nuclear Security Education as a Model*, Briefing Paper No.5, University of Bradford, November 2012. Available at [http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/sbtwc/briefing/three\\_bw\\_briefing.htm](http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/sbtwc/briefing/three_bw_briefing.htm).