

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

**Monday 10 December, Afternoon session**

**Transcription**

**MEXICO**

My delegation is extremely pleased to see you presiding over our work and I would like to extend my congratulations to the Vice-Chairperson as well and I would like to reiterate our full support to you as you carry out your functions. We would like to welcome the Marshall Islands as a Party to our Convention as was mentioned already a number of times this morning. This is the first Meeting of the States Parties since the 2011 Review Conference.

Also this year the Biological Weapons Convention is celebrating its fortieth birthday. This milestone in the international architecture of disarmament and non-proliferation is especially important for all those countries who, like Mexico, seek general and comprehensive disarmament under Egress International control. This Convention was the first treaty which prohibited an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

For this reason my delegation continues to regret the fact that legal provisions are lacking in the Convention to monitor and establish its full derivation. This gap carries us in a backward direction to principles of verification and irreversibility and transference which should be the framework of any disarmament process. We have to define criteria which indicate the fulfilment of the provisions of the Convention and the measure of the impact of progress in life sciences in the Convention.

We hope that this new cycle of reviewing the convention will generate the confidence which is essential to be able to cover this situation which is lacking and continue to strengthen the regime as established by the Convention. However, we must stress that the absence of provisions covering the verification of the fulfilment of the Convention should not be interpreted as an excuse for States not to fulfil their provisions and obligations or not to make progress in the national implementation of the Convention.

The commitment of Mexico to the full implementation of this Convention and other disarmament and non-proliferation instruments – and here I am talking about, for example, the Convention on Chemical Weapons – has led my Government to pinpoint or identify efficient mechanisms for the fulfilment of its provisions at the national level. More recently my country made a series of legal and operational adjustments for export controls which made it possible for it to present its application to the Australia Group and we hope that this will become concrete very soon. With this, we consolidate the commitment of our obligations with respect to the Convention.

Our Convention is experiencing an interesting set of circumstances: its objectives touch on areas which are cross-cutting in addition to disarmament, other areas such as global public health, combating terrorism and organized transnational crime. All these are areas which are absolutely essential as we conceptualize global security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and with this approach we must

implement a multisectoral and inter-institutional approach in implementation of the Convention at the national level and also internationally. It is also central to have a greater level of cooperation and we need to find efficiency among the action carried out by bodies within the United Nations system and regional organizations.

We acknowledge your initiative to invite the Deputy Director-General of OPCW and the Organization. Beginning in 2009, Mexico opted to increase its work on cooperation in the area of terrorism with bodies such as the OAS through the secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism which deals with emerging threats including biological and bioterrorism threats. During the first quarter of 2013, Mexico will be visited by a mission for assistance for planning, elaboration and strategic implementation of emergency plans, in particular in the area of bioterrorism, particularly for biological threats.

Scientific and technological development is moving at a pace which is swifter than our treaties. We must strengthen the implementation of the Convention with a preventive and complementary character. We believe that one of the positive outcomes of the review cycles was to have incorporated the consideration of this topic in a more systematic way.

We reiterate the very high value of expert meetings and how useful these are to strengthen and increase the contact networks and links and to make professionals of life sciences aware of the risks that are inherent in their activities. In this sense, my delegation supports the initiative which was submitted by Spain and which was on the consideration of a code of conduct for scientists who are working with biological and toxin agents in States Parties. This is a topic where I believe the Convention has an opportunity to make headway in implementing its goals. We hope it will be discussed in a very detailed way in the course of the next few days.

The Report on Confidence-Building Measures, although it is voluntary, is a very valuable resource to help strengthen our Convention and for this reason we continue to be concerned by the low level of participation in this exercise of CBMs.

We hope that the various editions of the format of the report during the Seventh Review Conference will be an incentive to be able to receive a greater number of national reports. Improving the quality of these reports and ensuring the certainty, the dependability of the information which is submitted, will benefit the exchange of experience and good practices in this field.

We also hope the discussions in the review cycle on Article X of the Convention will increase cooperation in certain crucial areas to be able to implement this treaty.

It is important to generate more significant cooperation programmes to create and strengthen capacity in the area of biosecurity and biosafety which will make it possible to optimize our capacity in early-warning response, management and mitigation of any crises. Ultimately it will be possible to reduce the inequality between States which have significant scientific and technological development and those which are in a phase of developing capacity in this area.

We hope that the development of a database which will concentrate information relating to cooperation and technical assistance programmes, as well as requests from those who require specific assistance, will help in these tasks. Resources for cooperation should not be boiled down

simply to financial resources: the exchange of information, the exchange of experience and technical knowledge must be the necessary complement to traditional schemes of assistance and guarantee the sustainability of international cooperation projects.

Mexico will continue to seek universality, full implementation and verification of our Convention. Under your leadership we shall continue to work with the States Parties and with the extremely efficient Implementation Support Unit for the Convention with a view to ensuring that our Convention will continue to be a valid one and have a lot of vitality.

The influence of this Convention helped in the negotiation of the Convention on Chemical Weapons. Following this period, Mexico will continue to seek the total prohibition and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.