

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

**Monday 10 December, Afternoon session**

**Transcription**

**MOROCCO**

I would like to start on behalf of the Moroccan delegation to congratulate you upon chairing the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition and the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. It is my conviction that your professional qualities and your long-standing diplomatic experience will ensure the success that we are looking forward to in this work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Implementation Support Unit: I would like to thank them for preparing the annual meeting so well and for the efforts that they continually implement to ensure the application of the Convention.

This meeting is taking place in a context where the international community faces the risk of the use of WMD: these risks are exacerbated by instability, rife in certain parts of the world and also the opportunities for diversion of technological evolution in the area of life sciences for malign ends.

In order to counter these changes it is important to operationalize the articles of the Convention and to ensure its universality. Morocco, therefore, remains convinced that setting up an effective mechanism for the multilateral operationalization of Article X of the Convention would be a determining factor to ensure its universality and would help compliance with its provisions.

The Convention is one of the most important conventions when it comes to disarmament. However, its effectiveness depends on its universality and I therefore take this opportunity to encourage all countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention.

At the same time, it is important to recall that the Biological Weapons Convention is an incomplete instrument because it does not have a verification mechanism taking into account all the articles of the Convention.

Biological arms are one of the categories of weapons prohibited by Resolution 1540 of the Security Council on countering weapons of mass destruction: hence the need, once again, to reiterate the importance of the effective implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons. This is both the primary multilateral instrument banning this kind of weapon of mass destruction and it is the cornerstone of international efforts in favour of disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Morocco is a State Party to all conventions and treaties dealing with WMD and we ratified this Convention in 2002 and in implementing our obligations as of 2005 we will also have submitted our national report on confidence-building measures (CBMs).

We are attached to the effective implementation of the Convention and therefore we have drafted a law on the control of dual-use products in order to make sure that we have the appropriate laws up and running in the context of advanced globalization and the constant evolution of technical progress, because it is becoming more and more difficult to counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, controlling the material required for their production.

At the same time and, as part of its cooperation with the European Union, Morocco has set up a Centre of Excellence. Its regional secretariat is in Rabat and the point of this is to bolster national and regional capacity when it comes to prevention and countering the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threat (CBRN).

The aim of this Centre of Excellence is to set up a flexible and voluntary system via the implementation of projects to ensure exchange of information, exchange of expertise and good practices and the development of assistance and training programmes, the aim of which is to build capacity when it comes to preparation and response to chemical, biological, nuclear or other threat, depending on whether they are accidental or deliberate.

It is important to recall how important it is to bolster national capacity for the implementation and respect of – and compliance with – the provisions of the Convention by all States Parties. Capacity building will mean that we will be able to ensure the necessary balance between a total prohibition on the use of production of the pathogens for military purposes and the scientific needs of research for purely medical purposes whilst ensuring cooperation between States Parties as foreseen in Article X of the Convention.

The Kingdom of Morocco, in this respect, would like to welcome the results of the Seventh Review Conference of the Convention which took place in December 2011. That ensured that the States Parties to the Convention – for the first time in more than a decade – was able to look at the means which are able to determine the future of the Convention because reinforcing intersessional programmes and making them results-oriented, can solve the issue of international cooperation and the implementation of Article X and bolster the mandate of the ISU, all these things are key measures – some of the key measures that will ensure the optimum implementation of the objectives of the Convention in a perpetually changing and evolving international environment.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate the unwavering and resolute commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco for ensuring the commitments to which it has entered by signing and ratifying this Convention and we would like to join any international effort to ensure the effective implementation and universalization of the Convention.