



*Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the UN – Geneva*

Chair of the NAM



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 Geneva 10-14 December 2012

**Statement on Behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and
Other States Parties to the BWC**

**Delivered by H.E Mr. Seyed Mohammad Reza Sajjadi, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Convention. We are pleased to see a fellow NAM member presiding over the first meetings of the BWC in the new inter-sessional program. We are confident that with you and your delegation's diplomatic skills and ability we will be able to take forward the work of the Convention.

The Group would like to reiterate its position as reflected in the Tehran final document of the NAM summit in which:

“ - The Heads of State or Government of the NAM States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) reaffirmed that the possibility of any use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons should be completely excluded, and the conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind. They recognized the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol and universal adherence to the Convention. They reiterated their call to promote international cooperation for peaceful purposes, including scientific-technical exchange. They ... highlighted that the Convention on Biological and Toxin Weapons forms a whole and that, although it is possible to consider certain aspects separately, it is critical to deal with all of the issues interrelated to this Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

- The Heads of State or Government of the NAM States Parties to the BTWC welcomed the active participation by NAM States Parties in the Seventh BTWC Review Conference held in Switzerland from 5-22 December 2011, to advance their positions on this Convention, particularly their key role in the adoption of the important decisions related to the implementation of Article X of the BTWC, especially by emphasizing the need for enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchanges in toxins, biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, bearing in mind the Action Plan on the implementation of Article X submitted by the NAM States Parties at the Sixth Review Conference, and the additional NAM States Parties' proposal on a mechanism for the full, implementation of Article X of the Convention presented more recently. They further encouraged the BTWC States Parties to implement the Article X, as set forth in paragraphs 50-61 of the Final Document of the seventh BTWC Review Conference. They also welcomed the outcome of the Seventh Review Conference and in particular its decision to include cooperation and assistance as one of the Standing Agenda Items, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X, as well as the Conference's decision to establish a database system to facilitate requests for and offers of exchange of assistance and cooperation among States Parties, and the establishment of a Sponsorship Programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties, in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the intersessional programme in the framework of the BTWC."

We are pleased that after lots of work and preparation, painstaking negotiations and many compromises by states we reached a successful conclusion of the Seventh Review Conference. Its final document represent a delicate balance regarding, structure, modality and different issues of the BWC that should be followed in the inter-sessional period from 2012-15.

By adoption of the final outcome of the seventh Review Conference, states parties agreed on continuation of the past inter-sessional structure including one week Expert Meeting and one week Meeting of States Parties and pursuing 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 without any decision making power 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. They also agreed on dividing the agenda of the inter-sessional program to two categories of Standing Agenda items to be discussed during the next 5 years and biannual agenda items for two years discussion.

Mr. Chairman,

We are pleased that under your able leadership we had a useful discussion in the framework of the Meeting of Experts held last July in which states parties shared their national experiences through an exchange of views between their relevant experts and entities. Like the last inter-sessional program, we note that the Review Conference decided that the Meeting of Experts sends a factual report reflecting its deliberations to the Meeting of States Parties. The Meeting of States Parties also provides an opportunity to enhance understanding and knowledge on various topics on the agenda and various possibilities for increasing common understanding for greater cooperation among States Parties in order to enhance the implementation of the Convention. We believe that the Meetings of Experts should be utilized for in-depth technical discussions of the relevant aspects under the different agenda items in order to prepare for the Meetings of States Parties to promote common

understanding and effective action on these issues. A successful inter-sessional programme would contribute to the next Review Conference.

The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BWC attaches great importance to the issue of international cooperation and full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X as the first priority of the Group. The enhancement of international cooperation for the use of biological agents for peaceful purposes is essential for the realization of the purpose and objective of the convention and also its effective implementation. In this context we welcome the decision of the 7th Review Conference to include cooperation and assistance as one of the standing agenda items, with a particular focus on strengthening Article X implementation.

We recognize the importance of the BWC and its role in the total ban on all biological and toxin weapons. The Group re-emphasize that multilateral negotiations aimed at concluding a non-discriminatory, legally binding agreement, dealing with all Articles of the Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner would sustainably strengthen the Convention. In this context we believe that that the respective mandates of this Convention and other international organizations should be respected, while utilizing the experiences of the relevant multilateral organizations dealing with human and animal health on issues that are of direct relevance to the Convention.

We are also of the view that the universality of the Convention is of high priority and importance and therefore practical steps should be taken to achieve this goal. In this context we emphasized the need for states that are not signatories to the convention to display political will by joining the BWC. We call upon non parties particularly those with advanced biotechnology to join the Convention without further delay.

Mr. Chairman,

I would elaborate the positions of the Group regarding the standing agenda items as well as the biennial topic later on this week. At this stage I would like to emphasize that maintaining the delicate balance reached in the 7th Review Conference outcome is of utmost importance for this Group. We hope that this delicate balance will be preserved through the entire inter-sessional program. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BWC looks forward to productive and forward looking discussions in the coming week. We assure you of our full cooperation in your work. Thank you.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

