



*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**

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National Implementation

NAM and Other States Parties note that various issues related to national implementation have been discussed at length during the Review Conferences as well as in the last two inter-sessional periods. We believe that it is useful for States Parties to learn from each other by sharing national experiences in the implementation of the Convention and to, collectively think about ways and means to enhance national implementation, including through regional and sub-regional cooperation.

There are diverse national situations for each of the States Parties but their commitments and obligations under the Convention are the same. Some States Parties, especially developing countries, may require assistance and cooperation to strengthen their national capacities for the full implementation of all the provisions of the Convention. States Parties which are in a position to provide assistance and cooperation to other States Parties in capacity building to implement the Convention should do so, if requested.

The case of H5N1 showed that still we have controversy around the areas that related to the national implementation of the convention and that some countries still don't have a clear picture about the authorized and unauthorized activities in the framework of the BWC. We believe that this case is very complex and important and the examination of this case should be carefully continued in the meeting of the BWC, because that includes activities that might affect the implementation of the convention.

The Group emphasizes that activities related to bio-defense should not be as a mask for offensive biological activities. In this regard it is necessary for the states parties to work together for enhancing national implementation by sharing best Practices and experiences,

exchange of information on enforcement of national legislation, on possible ways for strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions and finally building national capacity through international cooperation.

NAM has noted that a proposal on peer review in the framework of the BTWC has again been mooted. The issue of peer review was evaluated in the seventh review conference of the BWC and there was no consensus on the proposal. There are serious difficulties with this concept in the framework of the BWC including inter alia that it may create a false sense of assurance regarding national implementation of obligations arising from the convention. NAM stresses that in a multilateral treaty like the BWC it is important to be collectively reassured about compliance with the convention's provisions. In this regard NAM and Other States Parties to the Convention reiterate the importance of multilateral negotiations aimed at concluding a non-discriminatory, legally binding agreement, including on verification provisions, dealing with all the Articles of the Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner. We hope that all states parties will respect the mandate given by the Review Conference to the ISP and not reopen the fractious debates of the Review Conference.