STATEMENT BY TURKEY

MEETING OF STATES PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND THEIR DESTRUCTION

3 DECEMBER 2019

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chair,

We align with the EU statement and in our national capacity I would like to deliver following statement. Due to the time constraint, I will read a short version of the statement, full version will be delivered to the ISU in due time.

Turkey considers the BWC as one of the key components of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime and the cornerstone of the efforts to prevent biological agents and toxins to be used as weapons. The BWC has an essential role to play today and tomorrow.

Mr. Chair,

Turkey supports strengthening the implementation of Article X, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States Parties. In this regard, we believe that the discussions at MX1 are important.

There is a gap in efforts to catch up with the developments in the field of science and technology. In this regard, establishment of MX2 to review the developments in this field has been a good opportunity.

Lack of a noteworthy increase on the level of CBM reports provided, continues to be a challenge. In this regard, we think that works of MX3 might help to cover this gap.

In case of any biological attacks, assistance, response and preparedness are essential tools. We are all to be ready for such conditions in advance. Therefore, this issue needs
to be given utmost importance and precautions to be kept up to date. We believe MX4 has a unique place in these efforts.

Turkey supports the efforts aimed at establishing stronger structures that would enable better functioning of the Convention, including intersessional decision-making. In this regard, we believe MX5 has an important role.

Discussions in all groups of Meeting of Experts have increased awareness of the potential risks for the proliferation of biological weapons and ways on how to prevent them.

The reports from the Meetings of Experts (MX) and the Chairs’ summaries provide useful suggestions and ideas which might be used as building blocks in the preparations of incoming intersessional meetings before the Ninth Review Conference in 2021. We would like to add our voice to others in thanking the MX chairs for identifying concrete proposals. We believe that compiling these for consideration by States Parties could be useful.

Stepping up the universalization efforts can be another area to concentrate. All possible efforts should also be devoted in this vein. Turkey calls upon the remaining states not party to the BWC to adhere to it without further delay. That being said, we welcome Tanzania as the 183rd State Party.

Mr. Chair,

We share the expectations towards having better exchange of CBMs both in terms of quality and quantity. We commend State Parties which submitted reports, but it is obvious that level of submission has not reached to a desirable stage yet. Turkey submits CBM reports regularly.

Besides, a verification regime in the Convention would be useful for its purpose. Turkey believes that an improved system can strengthen the efficacy of the Convention. Cognizant of the differences in opinions on the matter, States Parties should keep taking up this matter as well.

Mr. Chair,

Bio-terrorism, as with other forms of weapons of mass destruction related terrorism, constitutes to be a major threat to the humanity and international security.
The facilitated access to materials, technology and know-how on different types of weapons of mass destruction has been and continues to be a major cause for concern for the entire international community.

Time is approaching fast for the Ninth Review Conference in 2021. Therefore, we believe there is a need to decide on the modalities of the Conference without loss of time. In this regard, the previous reviewing preparatory process might be paced. We believe that rather than the duration of the Conference, efficacy and consensus based final document are more important. Therefore, taking also financial difficulties, to consider a “two-week” Conference might be worthwhile.

Last but not least, keeping and strengthening the ISU is an essential issue. This also goes hand in hand with the financial predictability and stability of the Convention. In this regard, once again, we call all States, which have not yet done so, to fulfill their financial obligations without delay.

I thank you Mr. Chair.