2019 BWC Meeting of States Parties
Agenda item 6: Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of
Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes

Statement on MX3 by the United States of America

• Mr. Chairman, the United States would like to thank our South African
colleague, Ms. Lebogang Phihlela, for chairing MX3 in August and for
preparing Annex 1 of its factual report.

• Before turning to the substance of MX3, I would like to remind delegations that
– to the disappointment of many of us – our one-day meeting in August was
unable to complete its agenda.

• This suggests that when States Parties devise the BWC intersessional program
that will begin in 2022, we should plan to give more expert meeting time to
strengthening national implementation.

• Indeed, the United States considers the subject of MX3 to be of critical
importance to the health of the BWC, since effective implementation by Parties
is necessary to ensure their compliance.

• Furthermore, transparency about Parties’ implementation can help us gain
confidence in their compliance and raise useful questions if doubts about it
arise.

• Two of our primary means of transparency were discussed in MX3 –
confidence-building measures and voluntary transparency activities.

• The United States would like to congratulate Honduras for submitting its first
CBM report this year, but we remain disappointed that the number of reports
has declined annually since its peak in 2016 and remains only a little above
40% of all Parties. We continue to urge all Parties to submit CBMs annually.

• We note that numerous proposals have been made to improve the quality of
CBMs. We continue to believe that Parties should devote a dedicated effort,
perhaps in a working group, to consider these ideas and prepare a set of
recommendations to the 2021 Review Conference.
• A second important means of transparency, voluntary initiatives, has also made an important contribution to our work of strengthening the Convention, and we encourage more Parties to participate in such initiatives and to share their outcomes with fellow Parties.

• The United States agrees with those Parties that emphasize the importance of cooperation and assistance on national implementation.

• We regularly share with BWC Parties information on the assistance we provide for all aspects of implementing the Convention, such as in our 2018 report on implementation of Article X.

• In addition, at MX3 in August, my delegation gave a presentation on the assistance in the area of export controls and border security that we have provided to over 50 BWC Parties, assistance that has helped these countries fulfill their Article III obligations.

• Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasize the importance of effectively implementing Article III. As pointed out in the joint U.S.-Indian working paper submitted to last year’s MSP (BWC/MSP/2018/WP.1), doing so requires effective national export controls.

• We are encouraged that during MX3 discussions this year and last, a number of Parties shared information on their efforts to implement Article III through such controls.