Thank you, Mr Chair, for providing the NGO community with the opportunity to address this meeting.

Today, I will brief you on our key action points for MX4.

On assistance, response and preparedness, we encourage States Parties to:

1. Share national experiences, challenges and initiatives associated with assistance, response and preparedness efforts in order to develop an international repertoire of best practices;

2. Develop action plans, and subsequently implementation plans, to strengthen national, regional and global capacities in the early identification, response and mitigation of disease outbreaks, whether natural or deliberate in origin;

3. Discuss in a serious and constructive manner the UN Secretary-General’s proposal to establish a core standing coordinating capacity within the UN to conduct independent investigations of any alleged use of biological weapons; and

4. Discuss in a serious and constructive manner the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs’ efforts associated with the development of a framework that ensures a coordinated international response following the use of biological weapons.

Mr Chair, these are our key action points for MX4. These action points are outlined in the joint NGO Position Paper, available on the ISU website along with action points associated with the content of the other Meetings of Experts.

With this, I thank you for your attention and wish you a productive meeting.