Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to thank Georgian Ambassador Victor Dolidze for chairing MX1 in August and for preparing Annex 1 of the factual report.

The United States attaches high priority to the effective implementation of Article X, the focus of MX1, and we fulfill all of our commitments under this provision, just as we do with the other articles of the Convention.

The United States spends billions of dollars a year on international cooperation and assistance in the areas of biotechnology and the life sciences. This includes promoting global capacities to prevent, detect and respond to biological incidents that could affect humans, animals, and/or plants.

For the Global Health Security Agenda alone, my government has already spent over $1 billion to assist other countries in these areas, and last year we pledged an additional $150 million to this important effort.

In addition to such government efforts, as the United States noted in our MX1 working paper, much international cooperation and assistance in biotechnology and the life sciences takes place through the private sector.

In that paper, we also pointed out that States Parties can best avail themselves of the benefits of cooperation with private industry by creating environments in which such cooperation can thrive. This includes sound intellectual property rights and regulatory systems that promote foreign trade and investment.

Turning to the specifics of the MX1 discussion, we were struck by the very few States Parties that submit national reports on Article X implementation, in spite of the fact that many States Parties have asserted that they perceive them as valuable.
• It is not clear to us whether adoption of an outline or template for such reports, as has been suggested in MX1, would help increase their number.

• However, it does seem that States Parties could use these reports to help clarify their assistance needs and increase the chance of their being fulfilled.

• Regarding the assistance and cooperation database, we greatly appreciate the work of the BWC Implementation Support Unit to find ways to improve its contents, visibility and use among States Parties.

• However, this system depends primarily on inputs by States Parties. To increase the chance that matches can be made, Parties need to be as clear and specific as possible in their offers of and requests for assistance.

• We would remind States Parties that useful mechanisms, such as the World Health Organization’s Joint External Evaluations, are available to help countries identify the most critical gaps within their human and animal health systems.

• It would also improve the database if Parties would provide the ISU with updates when a request has been met, even if only partially.

• Additionally, as we have proposed, we also believe that the Art X database would be even more valuable if it contained all relevant offers of assistance available to States Parties, including those offered by NGOs, academia, and other public-private partnerships.

• Finally, I would like to add that my Government regularly bilaterally sponsors the participation of delegations to come to Geneva to participate in BWC meetings. For example, this year my Government is sponsoring the participation of six delegations to this Meeting of States Parties.