

Speech by Ambassador Cong FU  
Meeting of States Parties to the BWC

Dec 4, 2017

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, on behalf of the Chinese delegation I congratulate you on your election to preside over 2017 BWC State Parties Meeting. We are confident that with your extensive diplomatic experience and exceptional talent, the conference will achieve positive outcomes under your leadership. The Chinese delegation will fully support your work.

The Chinese delegation would also like to appreciate the work done by Ambassador Molnar, Chair of the 8th RevCon as well as ISU. We welcome Samoa which became the 179th state party to the Convention. We are pleased to see the improvement in the universalisation of the Convention and call on countries which haven't ratify or accede to the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman,

As the first international treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, the convention, since its entry into force, has been playing an indispensable role in eliminating the threat of biological weapons, non proliferation of biological weapons, enhancing peaceful use of biotechnology and related

cooperation and safeguarding global biosecurity. Against the backdrop of rapid developments in biotechnology and profound changes in the international security situation, biosecurity threats such as biological weapons, bioterrorism and large-scale communicable diseases have become more severe and biosecurity has become more prominent in the global security governance. To address these challenges, only by working jointly through multilateralism can we work effectively; only by strengthening the authority and effectiveness of the convention, by pushing forward the Convention's process can we further common interests and realise universal security.

China has always been of the view that negotiating and agreeing on a protocol which includes a verification mechanism and is legally binding for the purpose of comprehensively strengthening the Convention, is the best way of enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention. During the 8th RevCon, in-depth discussions were conducted on how to enhance the Convention and how organise the intersessional work. New ideas and initiatives were presented. It is regrettable that consensus wasn't achieved on the intersessional work programme.

A comprehensive, balanced, realistic and feasible intersessional work programme will contribute to consolidating the consensus, promoting coordinately Convention's purpose and objective as well as strengthening its effectiveness and authority. China has noted the proposal from the depositaries. All parties should seize the opportunity of this meeting to take good care of other's concerns and bridge differences so that the meeting will achieve positive results.

At the 8th RevCon, China made 2 proposals under the fra-

mework of the Convention, namely “Model Code of Conduct for Bio-scientists” and ”Non-Proliferation Export Control and International Cooperation Regime”. They were welcomed and supported by many countries. In our view, the code of conduct will enhance bio-security awareness of research personnel and prevent the misuse and misapplication of bio-science and technology, in order to address the challenges brought by rapid development of bio-science and technology. The Export Control and international cooperation Regime will fill the development gap between the south and the north while addressing both objectives of non-proliferation and international cooperation and striking a balance between rights and obligations. We look forward to promote these 2 initiatives with all parties during the ISP towards an enhanced effectiveness of the Convention.

Mr Chairman,

China has strictly followed the Convention’s provisions and implemented its obligations. Deeply involved in the Convention’s process, China has always submitted CBM documents on time. Following its overall national security vision, while improving its strategic design of biosecurity, China continues to enhance its mechanisms and capacity building, regulate efficiently biosafety, raise awareness of the public and actively engages in international biosafety cooperation. In Oct, Wuhan Institute of Virology, CAS, organised an international workshop on biosafety laboratory management and experimental techniques which aimed to train research personnel for developing countries in the area of communicable disease prevention and control and to provide global biosecurity public products. The workshop

hosted participants from Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Kenya, Serbia and Hungary and has achieved good results.

Mr Chairman,

President Xi in his keynote speech at Palais des Nations this January put forward the concept of “Building through consultation a community with a shared future for mankind”. This ambitious objective of promoting the construction of a community of a common future was further confirmed by the 19th CPC national congress, with a view to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity. This objective is along the lines of the Convention’s purpose and objectives. China will continue to act as a responsible major country, promote the construction of a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation which is based on mutual respect, fairness and justice, and participate actively in global governance reform and construction by contributing China’s knowledge and strength. China is ready to seize the precious opportunity of this meeting to work with all parties to bring forward the Convention’s process and to deepen biosecurity cooperation following the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, in order to contribute to excluding the possibility of any use of biological weapons and building a fair and rational international biosecurity order.

I thank you Mr Chairman.