We thank the Chairperson of MX3 for her efforts and the Summary Report prepared for our consideration of the national implementation of the BWC.

Switzerland fully shares the view that national implementation is a wide-ranging topic that requires action on multiple levels. Reviewing aspects related to national implementation, in particular national legislation, export controls, the CBMs and other national implementation measures is necessary to strengthen the BWC.

Ensuring responsible conduct of research by life scientists by sensitizing them for potential dangers also constitutes an important implementation measure of the BWC, as also discussed in the framework of MX2.

To advance national implementation in States Parties, we need to strengthen international cooperation and assistance with this particular aim in mind. Switzerland also sees benefit in adopting a comprehensive approach to national implementation at the domestic level, including engagement with international partners, industry and academia.

The strengthening of the confidence-building measures, especially in terms of quantity and quality, is of great importance – as the CBMs are currently the only agreed upon instrument in the framework of the BWC that effectively contributes to transparency and confidence-building among States Parties.

- Switzerland fully shares the notion that we need to continue our discussions on technical adjustments to the CBM forms, with a view to improving the quality of submissions and taking into account developments in science and technology.
- As already mentioned at this year’s MX, we are of the view that the limited update of a few CBM forms at the Seventh Review Conference in 2011 was by far not enough to put the forms dating back to the 1980s into today’s context of realities. This affects the relevance of the CBMs and is likely one of the reasons for the low level of participation as well as certain quality issues.
- We need to review the numerous suggestions made to improve the quality of the current CBM forms by updating the kind of information that is to be provided, in order to reconcile different views among States Parties with a view to be able to present a set of modifications to the next Review Conference.
- In terms of process, we are convinced that the step-by-step approach to CBM participation is a very valuable concept that promises to increase participation.
- We also believe that the new electronic CBM platform will facilitate the preparation and submission of CBMs by a greater number of countries, and thank the European Union and the ISU to have made its development possible. We are glad to see that this tool is now operational, and recommend that the MSP encourages use of the electronic platform.
With regard to voluntary transparency initiatives, Switzerland is convinced that the pursuit of such exploratory approaches, including the peer-review mechanism and similar initiatives, is a valuable undertaking to promote transparency and confidence building under the Convention.

- These initiatives, which are by no means intended as substitutes for verification, provide an opportunity to exchange views and ideas on how to improve national BWC implementation, while at the same time increasing transparency and confidence in compliance.
- We share the view that we should acknowledge their value for the purpose of improving national implementation and increasing transparency about it.

Furthermore, an effective national export control system is an important element of the implementation of the BWC. The purpose of bioweapons-related export controls is to minimize the risk of contributing to the proliferation of biological agents, materials, equipment or means of delivery for purposes that are contrary to the provisions of the Convention. Therefore, exports of relevant goods require government permission and oversight of transfers, consistent with Article III of the BWC, without hampering legitimate transfers for peaceful purposes.

- The Swiss export control system and our activities in this area are guided by these principles and considerations.
- Several pertinent working papers have been submitted on the issue and we agreed on a number of common understandings on the importance of export controls as a national implementation measure, with a view to improve implementation of Article III of the Convention.