Dr. Richard T. Cupitt's Statement to the Biological Weapons Convention Meetings of State Parties
2 - 6 December 2019

Delivered by Dr. Rebecca Katz, on the behalf of Dr. Richard T. Cupitt:

Mr Chair, Distinguished Representatives,

Thank you for providing the opportunity for the NGO community to make statements. We welcome your recognition that our voices, perspectives and experiences provide important contributions to BWC discussions. The statement set out below is delivered on the behalf of Dr. Richard T. Cupitt, Senior Fellow and Director of the Partnerships in Proliferation Prevention program at the Stimson Center in Washington D.C.

Mr Chair,

Non-Government Organizations have made many concrete contributions to the support State Parties in their efforts to implement the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and oppose the proliferation of biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Since 2002, hundreds of NGOs from around the world have funded, donated to, or participated as an implementing partner in projects or programs in support of Article X and other objectives and articles of the Convention.1 The NGOs involved in these efforts span the globe, and include universities, research centers, professional associations, foundations, companies, public health alliances, as well as several other types of organizations. These support projects and programs are diverse, and include, but are not limited to, technical trainings, awareness raising, network development, best practices and knowledge sharing, as well as the provision of equipment, funds, and other resources.

To make it easier for State Parties to identify current programs, experts and organizations, the Henry L. Stimson Center and the Georgetown University Center for Global health Science & Security have put together a catalog of assistance programs that highlights civil society’s contributions to enhance biological safety and security. The catalog includes information on dozens of projects, uniformly described and with points of contact. We intend to update this catalog annually, which we believe can facilitate stronger connections between civil society and State Parties seeking assistance. The Material contained in this catalog will be also included in the Stimson Center’s UNSC Resolution 1540 Assistance Support Initiative (ASI) Database, available at https://1540assistance.stimson.org/assist-programs/.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to provide statements. Hard copies of the assistance catalog are available at the back of the room.

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1 The data comes from the entries in the UNSC Resolution 1540 Assistance Support Initiative Database of the Henry L. Stimson Center.