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

Today, we will brief you on our key action points for MX3.

On national implementation, we encourage States Parties to:

1. Adopt and enforce the necessary legal measures, in accordance with their constitutional processes, to prohibit and prevent the development, production, use, stockpiling, transfer and acquisition of biological weapons and to secure biological agents and toxins in peaceful activities.

2. Share national experiences, challenges and initiatives to adopt legal measures giving effect to the BWC, share relevant laws and regulations, and report them under the CBM mechanism.

3. Share national experiences, challenges and initiatives associated with education and awareness-raising, codes of conduct for life scientists, biosafety and biosecurity measures, and legislative and administrative provisions which are designed to prevent and prohibit the development, production, use, stockpiling, transfer and acquisition of biological weapons and which secure biological agents and toxins in peaceful activities in order to develop an international repertoire of best practices.

4. Develop national action plans, and subsequently implementation plans, to strengthen national implementation that are multisectoral and include the local relevant NGO community.

5. Continue to substantively engage with, and support, the NGO community and Parliamentarians who are demonstrating a significantly increasing capacity and effectiveness in promoting universality and implementation of the BWC, as well as facilitating submission of CBMs by States Parties.

6. Consider mechanisms to proactively disclose information and communicate to the international community the intent of biodefence activities which may have a high misuse potential.
7. Reinvigorate and expand the CBM mechanism with a view to enhance the annual information exchange process so that it better communicates ‘grey-area’ biodefence activities.

8. Endorse and increase participation in ‘interactive’ information exchanges, such as compliance assessment, peer review, implementation review and facility visits.

9. Encourage national compliance reviews by independent experts, where the process of reaching compliance judgments is explicitly delineated.

Mr Chair, these are our key action points for MX3. The action points are outlined in the joint NGO Position Paper, available on the ISU website.

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