



STATEMENT BY

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**ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CENTER, REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

TO

THE MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO

**THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)
AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Geneva, 4-8 December 2017

Team of EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative Project 53 Implementers:



Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege to make a Statement to the Meeting of the State Parties of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, which I am doing on behalf of the International Science and Technology Center. The ISTC is an intergovernmental organization which is headquartered in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, with member states of the Republic of Armenia, European Union, Georgia, Japan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Tajikistan, and the United States of America.

The objectives of the ISTC are:

- to promote the improvement of international mechanisms for the prevention of the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their delivery systems, as well as of technologies, materials, and expertise;
- to give scientists and engineers with knowledge and skills applicable to Weapons of Mass Destruction and their delivery systems opportunities for training and alternative employment where their knowledge and skills can be used for peaceful activities; and
- to promote a culture of security with respect to the handling and use of materials, equipment, and technology which could be used for the design, development, production, or use of WMD or their means of delivery.

Mr. Chairman,

ISTC is the lead implementer for Project 53 of the European Union funded Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative. The Centres of Excellence Initiative currently covers eight regions and 56 partner countries. It works in partnership with countries to encourage local ownership of CBRN action plans, policies and joint preparation of regional project proposals.

Within this Initiative, Project 53, titled 'Strengthening the National Legal Framework and Provision of Specialized Training on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Central Asian Countries', was funded for six and a half million Euros with seven participating countries: the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan. The duration of Project 53 is three years and it will be completed by the end of 2018.

As part of its own mission and the objectives of the CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, the ISTC is co-ordinating the collaborative implementation of Project 53 between National Teams of Experts of the participating countries and an EU Team of Experts, which is a consortium led by the Sustainable Criminal Justice Solutions, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (or VERTIC) and Public Health England, all based in the United Kingdom, and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment which is based in the Netherlands.

The objectives of Project 53 are to:

- Raise awareness and promote collaboration regarding the biosafety, biosecurity emergency response and incident management issues among the national stakeholders, in order to reduce proliferation risks through the advancement and promotion of safe and responsible conduct in the field of biological sciences.
- Provide support for strengthening of the national legal systems addressing biosafety and biosecurity, and reinforce biological non-proliferation principles, practices and instruments.
- Assess training needs and map facilities in view of optimizing collaboration during the project and improve sustainability after its conclusion.
- Develop and implement a regional self-sustainable training system for biosafety and biosecurity.

Within this context, the EU Team of Experts are assisting the National Teams of Experts from the seven participating countries to harmonize their international obligations with national bio-safety and bio-security legal frameworks under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the World Health Organisation's International Health Regulations, and the Food and Agricultural Organization's Codex Alimentarius. The harmonization effort is led by VERTIC and Key Legal Expert Scott Spence, who is also participating in this meeting. Furthermore, Project 53 aims to support refining local bio-safety and bio-security training programs to international standards, while stimulating regional cooperation on relevant issues. This work is led by Public Health England in co-operation with the Netherlands' National Institute for Public Health and the Environment.

Mr. Chairman, in summary, EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative Project 53 is supporting the practical implementation of some of the core objectives of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention with respect to biosafety and biosecurity issues, namely:

- enhancing local legislation for biosecurity;
- raising biosecurity awareness and capabilities;
- stimulating a culture of responsibility for biosecurity; and
- supporting regional and inter regional cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.