2019 BWC Meeting of States Parties
Agenda item 6: Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes

Statement on MX5 by the United States of America

- Mr. Chairman, the U.S delegation would like to thank our Swiss colleague, Mr. Laurent Masmejean, for chairing MX5 in August and for preparing Annex 1 of its factual report.

- The MX5 is devoted to issues on which there are longstanding and deep divisions among States Parties. We respect the right of those Parties that advocate resuming negotiations on legally binding measures to continue arguing for that course of action.

- However, the United States and other Parties have put forward many other proposals for institutional strengthening of the Convention that do not require legally binding measures.

- We urge those that seek such measures to consider these proposals on their merits, rather than holding all possible joint action hostage to new negotiations.

- A number of them reflect common approaches among Parties to strengthening the Convention, and considering them seriously would be a good way to move our MX and MSP discussions forward.

- During MX5 discussions, the United States stressed the importance we attach to compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention by all States Parties and promoted greater use of the consultative mechanism of Article V, including steps for resolving questions about the information provided in CBMs and about compliance with the Convention.

- Furthermore, we joined other voices in support of strengthening the operational capability of the UN Secretary-General’s Mechanism for investigating alleged use of biological and chemical weapons.

- This Mechanism provides a powerful tool that could be used in the event that Articles VI or VII of the Convention are exercised.
• Finally, like many other Parties, the United States recognized the importance of putting the BWC on a solid financial footing. Doing so would facilitate other measures to strengthen the Convention, such as enhancing the ISU, as proposed by a number of Parties.

• Serious engagement on these and other ideas for strengthening the Convention institutionally without new legal elements would go a long way toward helping us meet our common goals for it.