
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

13 December 2023

English only

2023 Meeting
Geneva, 11–13 December 2023

United Kingdom National Statement

Submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Chair, thank you for your efforts this week in challenging circumstances. You have the United Kingdom's full support.

We regret the continuing attempts by the Russian Federation to undermine decades of established practice and the rights of observers, including NGOs, to participate fully in our discussions. Efforts to disrupt their contributions run counter to the principles of transparency and inclusivity and damages the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

The United Kingdom remains fully committed to a strong Convention. It is vital for our collective safety and security, as biological risks increase and diversify.

We welcome the continuing progress being made towards universalisation and stronger global engagement with the Convention.

In particular, we welcome South Sudan to our ranks as the 185th State Party, since the last Meeting of States Parties. Each new accession further strengthens our Convention, and we look forward to more accessions in the year ahead.

Beyond this, there are more Confidence Building Measure submissions and National Contact Points than ever. National implementation is also improving globally. And there are increasing numbers of requests for assistance under Article X.

This progress represents the increasing importance of our Convention to meet global biological risks in the 21st Century.

It is also due to the excellent work of the ISU, with the support of voluntary contributions. The United Kingdom pays tribute to the ISU, who continue to deliver, despite the resource challenges they face.

The United Kingdom is a proud contributor and is pleased to see this support goes towards greater compliance and engagement, particularly in developing countries. We are pleased to have been able to support through the funding of updated CBM tools.

We are committed to continuing this support, through voluntary contributions to the ISU's work, bilateral assistance to states, continued efforts under the Global Partnership, and through better use of the international cooperation and assistance tools under the Convention.

We welcome the report on the Convention's finances and are pleased they have continued to improve in recent years. The United Kingdom agrees with the proposal in the report to use remaining credits.

As engagement with the Convention improves, we all recognise the need to strengthen the Convention.



As many delegations have made clear during the Working Group discussions, the Covid-19 pandemic, globalisation, climate change, and advancing technologies are all contributing to changing biological risks. We, and our Convention, must adapt to meet this challenge.

The United Kingdom has been happy to contribute to the positive efforts of the Working Group during the last year. We are grateful for the Chair's leadership so far and look forward to meeting his challenge to intensify efforts in 2024.
