



INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII DURING THE 9TH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Mr President,

South Africa would like to reiterate its commitment to the full, effective and balanced implementation of the BWC. The Convention makes an important contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security by preventing the threat posed by biological weapons.

The 9th Review Conference offers a unique opportunity to review in a balanced and open manner the provisions of the Convention with a view to its full implementation. South Africa has submitted a working paper under this Article for a number of years and we hope for a positive outcome at this Review Conference.

Regarding Article VII of the Convention, South Africa appreciates the reference that delegations made to the South African working paper during the Meetings of Experts, the 2020 Meetings of State Parties and the Preparatory Committee Meetings in 2021 and 2022.

South Africa would like to thank delegations who provided comments and suggestions to further improve the paper and to those that have expressed support and consideration for its possible adoption.

My delegation has worked on the proposal and has provided draft language for consideration by all Delegations as well as its possible inclusion and adoption in the outcome document of the 9th Review Conference. South Africa believes that the Article VII database complements the South African proposal on voluntary guidelines, and that both proposals would strengthen the operationalisation of this Article.

Mr President South Africa stands ready to work constructively towards an outcome that would strengthen the Convention and its balanced implementation leading towards a successful Review Conference.

I thank you.