

STATEMENT BY THE GHANA DELEGATION ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES, READ BY THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINT, MR. KWAMENA ESSILFIE QUAISON, THE DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, ACCRA, GHANA

I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for your good sense of leadership over the deliberations so far. The work of the Biological Weapons Convention is critical to ensuring global security and preventing the use of biological weapons. The Ghana Delegation is happy and honoured to be a part of this effort, and we look forward to working with all States Parties to advance the goals of the Convention.

I also want to express our support and appreciation to the Federal Republic of Nigeria for delivering a profound statement for the African Group and reiterating that biological-related activities carried out by States must be in consonance with the rules and objectives set out by the Convention.

Mr. Chairman, the confidence-building measures (CBMs) instituted by the Biological Weapons Convention are essential for ensuring compliance and promoting transparency among States Parties. These measures include declarations on national biological programmes, visits to facilities and laboratories, and the exchange of information and expertise. By promoting mutual trust and cooperation, these measures strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention and help to ensure its continued effectiveness in preventing the proliferation of biological weapons.

We also recognize that, the confidence-building measures of the Biological Weapons Convention are not only a vital component of the Convention itself, but also a crucial element in the global effort to prevent the use of biological weapons. By facilitating cooperation and building trust among States Parties, these measures play a vital role in promoting peace and security around the world.

While the confidence-building measures of the Biological Weapons Convention are a significant achievement in terms of its introduction to the implementation framework, it is important to

recognize that they are not a panacea. They are only one part of a larger effort to prevent the use of biological weapons, which must also include education and outreach, capacity building, and research and development. Together, these measures can help to create a world that is safer and more secure for all.

Mr. Chairman, I would be failing in my duty if I do not mention the role of science and technology as being absolutely crucial in the successful implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention. Advances in science and technology have created new possibilities for both peaceful and malicious applications of biological agents. Therefore, it is vital that we remain vigilant in monitoring and regulating the use of science and technology in this field, and ensuring that it is used only for peaceful purposes. Only by working together and sharing our expertise can we ensure the success of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman, Ghana upholds all International Conventions, Treaties and Protocols, especially the ones that we have been able to secure legislations for their implementation. I am happy to inform you that, we have just been supported and guided by a Legal Team from UNODA to finalize our draft legislation for submission to the Office of the Attorney Generals Department and the Ministry of Justice. However, there is still work to do to get the final enactment of an Implementing Legislation. We also need institutional strengthening, awareness-creation and sensitization of relevant stakeholders. We hope to achieve this in the coming year, still counting on the support and facilitation of the Implementation Support Unit of the Biological Weapons Convention and the UNODA Legal Team.

On that note, we want to thank you for the opportunity to take the floor.