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**STATEMENT BY MR. SHAHARUDDIN ONN,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
AT THE MEETING OF EXPERTS OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)
4 AUGUST 2014, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

ON

Mr. Chairman,

First and foremost, allow me on behalf of the Malaysian delegation to congratulate you on your assumption as Chairman of the 2014 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). We are confident that given your vast knowledge, skills and experience, you will be able to navigate our work to achieve the objective of this Meeting. In this regard, please be assured that Malaysia will provide its fullest cooperation and stands ready to work constructively with you and other State Parties in ensuring positive outcomes of this meeting.

2. At this juncture my delegation would also like to associate itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Chair of NAM, on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia reiterates its views that the existence of deadly biological and toxin weapons, as well as its potential misuse, constitute a serious threat to international peace and security as well as causes economic losses. It is also

ironic that the magnitude of the threat is also growing with the dynamism of biomedical technology and advancement in the field of biotechnology.

4. Furthermore, Malaysia emphasizes the importance for the Meeting to reaffirm and to expand the understanding of the core principles and goals of the BWC, taking into account developments that had taken place in the international security environment, particularly in multidisciplinary scientific fields relevant to the Convention. In this regard, Malaysia recognises the importance for State Parties to undertake serious efforts to strengthen cooperation and assistance in conformity with the goals and objectives of Article X.

5. The advancements in the field of bio-sciences and its remarkable benefits for humankind continue to evolve as we speak. Yet, the concern of the dual-use aspects remain. Oversight frameworks for bio-safety and bio-security are crucial to ensure research in bio-sciences are not diverted for the production of biological weapons. Given this fact, there is a need for scientific and technological cooperation between State Parties to fight against infectious diseases and to address the threats of bio-terrorism. Given this fact, there is a need for scientific and technological cooperation between State Parties both for the social-economic progress of developing countries that are people centred and socially responsible, and for the fight against infectious diseases and the threats of bio-terrorism.

6. With the focus of strengthening national implementation of the BWC, I am pleased to inform that at the national level, Malaysia will be conducting a 2-day seminar entitled "Bio-Threats and Bio-Risk: Bridging Science and Security" that will be held on 27-28 October 2014. This would be followed by a Regional Workshop on Bio-Threats and Bio-Security: Multisectoral Coordination that would be held from 29-31 October 2014. It is our hope that States Parties to the BWC in South East Asia would be able to participate in this workshop. Both events are in partnership with the Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP), Defense Threat Reduction Agency, U.S. Department of Defense and would be

held in the northern state of Penang. The events will focus mainly on national and regional practices, challenges, and strategies for biosecurity measures in relation to the BWC, IHR and UNSCR 1540. The workshop would look into multisectoral coordination with regard to preparedness and response to a biological incident or biothreat at the regional level.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Given the continuous evolution in the field of bio-sciences, there is a growing need for greater scientific and technological cooperation among State parties. Article VII and Article X of the convention provides for this. Malaysia firmly believes that Article VII and Article X of the Convention can be implemented in such a way allowing States to undertake, facilitate and participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, scientific and technological information and at the same time ensure efficient mobilisation and maximum utilisation of resources. Whilst there is no “one size fits all” solution for national implementation, such collaborative efforts would certainly help in strengthening or complementing existing national frameworks or actions plans.

Mr. Chairman,

9. My delegation will be making interventions during the course of this meeting on the specific agenda items within our programme of work. Before I conclude, allow me to reiterate that the Government of Malaysia remains steadfast and committed to the work of the Convention, and please be assured of our support to your work as Chairman of the 2014 BWC meetings.

Thank you.

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