



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Febrian A. Ruddyard  
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at

**the 9<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and  
Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on  
Their Destruction/Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**

Geneva, 28 November 2022

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me first congratulate you for assuming the presidency of the 9<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)... as well as the members of the Bureau of this august meeting. Rest assured of Indonesia's full support and cooperation.

My delegation associates itself with statements delivered by Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Other States Parties to the Convention, and Cambodia on behalf of the ASEAN Member States.

Mr. President,

This meeting takes place against a backdrop of

- global tensions,
- collapse of major strategic arms control arrangements,
- political division and hostage,
- institutional inertia of disarmament machineries, and
- COVID-19 pandemic that has exposed our vulnerabilities to infectious diseases.

While anticipating their effect on our dynamic in this meeting, we shall not fall victims to those situations. We should instead transform those challenges into an impetus to strengthen the BWC regime.

Mr. President,

This Conference presents us the opportunity to review implementation of the Convention, identify rooms for improvements, address the shortcomings, as well as make the necessary decisions for our future endeavors.

In this regard, allow me to highlight four pertinent points:

*First*, BWC should focus on totally banning the misuse of microbial agents and toxin as well as ensuring the peaceful uses of such materials. To serve these purposes, it clearly requires a **compliance and verification mechanism**.

Verification mechanism has played essential role in other weapons of mass destruction regimes. The absence of this mechanism only prevents us from the full and effective implementation of the Convention

Along with that line, a legally binding protocol to ensure and verify states' adherence to all articles of the Convention is a substitute to none.

While understanding the continuing disagreements, we hope the next intersessional process would facilitate forging common understanding on this matter.

**Second, international cooperation**, assistance and partnership should be a paramount importance. The COVID-19 pandemic has showed that no country would be able to face and resolve the outbreak of infectious diseases alone.

We hope that Conference will be able to improve cooperation mechanism and framework within the BWC, while ensuring the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Article X.

**Third**, Mr. President, is the importance of a comprehensive review of new **Sciences and Technology**.

Article XII stipulates that while reviewing the operation of the Convention, the States Parties shall take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention.

We however have never assumed this mandate in the past Review Conferences.

We note that the States Parties have widely recognized the need to establish a SnT review mechanism and various constructive proposals have also been submitted on this matter. We therefore hope that this Conference will find a landing zone to move this matter forward.

**Lastly**, is on the need to improve the effectiveness of intersessional process and the Implementation Support Unit. They both are instrumental... to ensure the effective operation of the Convention.

In this light, we hope that the Conference would be able to generate recommendations and decisions that could improve the intersessional process and better equip the implementation support unit.

To conclude, Mr President, we wish us all a productive review conference. A Conference that will produce meaningful outcome...both to ensure continuation of our future endeavor... and to properly review our past implementation.

With that, I thank you.

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