



Oral Intervention

Global peace-building efforts, being a key objective of achieving the sustainable development agenda, require an effective mechanism to eliminate weapons of mass destruction as well as biological weapons. Developing this mechanism requires persistent efforts from all, especially since the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) lacks verification and compliance procedures.

Despite what is stipulated in international treaties established after World War II, regarding the prohibition of biological weapons, many countries are still racing to possess these deadly weapons. In the face of this, all pandemics breaking out worldwide were interpreted as part of a major global conflict, which has been confirmed by the emergence of successive global epidemics, such as mad cow disease (BSE), bird flu, swine flu, anthrax, SARS and, finally, Coronavirus.

Mr. President,

Bioterrorism is considered the most serious phenomenon after nuclear terrorism. Terrorists use, in their bloody attacks, deadly biological tools that lead to the outbreak of epidemic diseases. Bioterrorism is perhaps the most prominent outcome of the spread of biological weapons. It refers to the deliberate release of some biological factors that may cause many diseases or death among residents of some areas, in addition to harming food crops and livestock, terrorizing innocent civilians, ruining their properties, and in some cases triggering epidemics or plagues.

International reports confirmed the existence of fears of an increased risk of biological attacks by terrorist groups using viruses and bacteria in the post-Corona pandemic era. Terrorists may deliberately resort to using pathogens or other effective biological materials in their attacks. Thus, the damage to people and the economy becomes much greater than traditional terrorist attacks. Experts warn that the damage will be quick and global and that these attacks may paralyze societies for long periods, spreading widespread fear and mistrust among all peoples, not just the affected areas.

Mr. President,

In light of the foregoing, Maat, in cooperation with the GCLA, affirms that in order to free the world from weapons of mass destruction, especially biological weapons, it is necessary



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to enhance transparency and build confidence, in addition to the need to increase awareness among the public to put pressure on governments to strengthen the system for destroying stockpiles of biological weapons and stop their manufacturing. There must be renewed efforts to link biological disarmament with Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, global efforts must be unified and continued to combat these threats in order to reach a complete and comprehensive ban on the manufacturing and use of biological weapons, by including domestic and national laws in legal rules that prohibit and restrict the use of these deadly weapons.

Countries must also work to curb and prevent illegal arms trafficking and unify their efforts in order to prevent terrorists from acquiring them, in addition to the need to prevent the continuous proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to monitor the means of obtaining materials and technologies that can be used in their manufacturing.

The States Parties to the Convention must work to destroy the biological weapons they have, especially since some armed actors, especially terrorists, have a growing interest in possessing biological weapons, particularly in light of the wide availability of advanced scientific and technological tools and methods, which gradually leads to the erosion of the barriers that obstruct the development of biological weapons.