



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador/Permanent Representative and Head of Delegation of Nepal  
during the General Debate  
Ninth Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Review Conference  
Geneva, 28 November 2022**

**Words:716, time:5 mins**

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates**

Let me begin by congratulating you Mr. President on your assumption of the Presidency of this Ninth BWC Review Conference. I assure you of my delegation's full support towards a meaningful conclusion of this conference.

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM members who are States Parties to the BWC.

BWC has been a pioneer multilateral disarmament treaty that has been successfully addressing the pertinent issues related to the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs).

Nepal is a State Party to the BWC, CWC and NPT and also the host to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific.

We reaffirm our principled position that the general and complete disarmament of all kinds of WMDs in a time-bound manner is the bottom-line to ensuring universal peace and security.

**Mr. President,**

Nepal has never allowed the production, acquisition or use of biological and toxin weapons within its territory nor does it possess any facility whatsoever to develop, produce, acquire, or transfer any kind of WMD as our National Penal Code strictly prohibits any such act.

Nepal expresses its continuous support for the universalization and effective implementation of the provisions in the BWC. Furthermore, we also recognize

the urgency of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations and developing a well-regulated and controlled mechanism in making the best utilization of opportunities created by the Convention.

There is a thin line between the opportunities and threats brought by the rapid developments in the field of life sciences enabling the use of microbes and toxins.

Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BWC) is also an important international legal architecture of WMD. We must strengthen the treaty to prevent the weaponization of biology. There is an urgent need for a universal, non-discriminatory, and legally binding mechanism to tackle the issue of biological threats.

Likewise, the essence of verification mechanism to counter serious challenges towards the effective implementation of the Convention cannot be neglected.

Nepal regards Confidence Building Measures important tools to ensure transparency and build trust among the State Parties to the BWC. We also highlight the need to ensure full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X of the Convention.

We view that sharing of new technologies and successes achieved in the field of life sciences and biotechnologies can help create a global platform to combat against various diseases. International cooperation should be enhanced for the use of biological agents for peaceful purposes such as vaccine development for meeting the public health needs in compliance with the convention. Moreover, sharing of good practices and providing appropriate technical support to developing countries, especially LDCs, is vital to achieve global health security as mentioned in Goal 3 of SDG.

**Mr. President,**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, as the national authority for the implementation of BWC, has been engaging in development of legislative measures necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. It has been continuing to undertake sincere efforts for the implementation of the Convention at the national level by carrying out various initiatives and conducting regular consultations with concerned stakeholders and relevant implementing agencies to produce a sustainable comprehensive draft.

Nepal appreciates UNODA and BWC Implementation Support Unit for the convening of workshops and seminars targeted to raise awareness on the BWC and its implementation with the participation of national governments and other relevant stakeholders.

Some State Parties to the BWC, in particular the LDCs, despite their unwavering commitment, have been struggling with adequate technical and financial resources while trying to comply with provisions of various disarmament-related treaties and resolutions, including fulfilling their reporting obligations. Nepal, therefore, calls for the enhanced international cooperation and assistance to strengthen national capacities of those State Parties in this regard.

**Mr. President,**

To conclude, my delegation underscores the need of collaborative approach to prevent the emergence of new types of WMDs. Nepal believes that the use or threat of the use of WMDs is against the principles of the UN Charter and international humanitarian, human rights, and environmental laws.

We also underline the need of global efforts for the utilization of untapped opportunities created with the rapid advancement in life sciences and biotechnology for the peaceful purposes aiming to advance human welfare.

I thank you.