

**9th Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference**  
**Statement by the Head of the Moldovan Delegation, Ambassador Tatiana**  
**Molcean**

**28 November 2022**

Mr President,

At the outset I would like to begin by congratulating you on your confirmation as President of the Conference, and commend you on your steady leadership as you chart the way forward for this Review Conference.

We also join others in welcoming the accession by the Central African Republic, Guinea, State of Palestine and others to the BWC, thus bringing the total to 184 states parties. This is a positive development for achieving full universality of the Convention.

Republic of Moldova aligns with the statement of the European Union. We express our strong belief in a cooperative, transparent and inclusive review process and we will engage across the entire BWC membership with the prospect of achieving progress on key issues, such as verification, compliance and cooperation. Now more than ever the world needs a stronger Biological Weapons Convention and with this in mind we are determined to foster the BWC agenda.

Mr. President,

Republic of Moldova views the Biological Weapons Convention as one of the main pillars for upholding international peace and security. With that being said, current global challenges have shown us that the Convention is languishing at a critical point, *solely operating on the **ban*** on the misuse of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. A verification and control mechanism is long overdue to prevent any abuse or misuse of such materials, as well as of science and technology developments, while supporting their peaceful use.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted what a devastating impact biological hazard can have on people and their livelihoods, whether natural or deliberate. The global community must act together on the lessons learnt after the pandemic and strengthen international tools against dangerous pathogens, and that includes stepping up efforts to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention.

Moreover, given the absence of any mechanism for monitoring compliance-related issues, it is of crucial importance to further develop and promote confidence-building measures while improving international cooperation and assistance.

Republic of Moldova fully supports the initiative to establish the SecBio international platform dedicated to biosecurity and biosafety, especially in the context of the pandemic which remains a public health emergency of international concern despite solid progress in treatments and immunization. Safety conditions in specialized laboratories, infrastructure protection and secure transportation of biological samples

are key issues to be addressed in relation to peaceful cooperation and assistance, in accordance with art. 10.

We also strongly support the establishment of a science and technology review mechanism given the rapid pace of technological innovation and the underlying adverse outcomes. Progressive decisions are needed during the RevCon in order to set a clear roadmap for the next cycle, including a comprehensive and efficient intersessional programme with science and technology as one of the main focuses.

Gender equality and women empowerment remains a horizontal priority of the Republic of Moldova, including in the BWC. We have witnessed the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on women and girls, increasing social, economic, and political inequalities all over the world. Integrating the gender dimension into BWC discussions is an important step in ensuring states' resilience, preparedness and response to biological threats alongside enhancing the efficacy of assistance under the Convention.

Mr. President,

This year's Review Conference is marked by the unprovoked and unjustified war launched upon Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Since the beginning of the war Republic of Moldova has been firm in condemning the aggression and we seize this platform to reiterate once again the strong demand that Russia immediately ceases its military attacks and unconditionally withdraws all troops from Ukraine.

We are unwavering in our support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence within its internationally recognized borders and we urge the Russian Federation to respect international law, including international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, we condemn the false claims regarding alleged development and possible use of biological weapons in Ukraine with the support of the United States, which constitute a feeble attempt to justify this unlawful military aggression.

These false allegations undermine efforts aiming at strengthening global health and security architecture and implementing commitments to international cooperation and assistance, in conformity with art. 10.

To conclude I would like to reiterate my delegation's commitment to reach common ground and adopt without delay concrete measures to strengthen and advance the Convention. You can count on Moldova's full support in completing the work of the RevCon and I look forward to engaging with all delegations as Chair of the Committee of the Whole in the upcoming 3 weeks.

Finally, we wish a successful Review Conference to all of you.

Thank you.