

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**9TH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 28 NOV – 16 DEC 2022**

Thank you, Mr President,

1. Let me first begin by extending our congratulations on your election as the President of the 9th BWC Review Conference. Singapore expresses our appreciation to you and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs for convening the Review Conference. You have Singapore's full support for your Presidency.

Mr President,
Distinguished Colleagues,

2. In our increasingly polarised and contested geopolitical environment, the threat of biological weapons continues to undermine global peace and security. Advances in science and technology have generated new risks and considerable uncertainty over the threat of a new arms race. This complicates the prospect of multilateral cooperation, which is the bedrock of global biosecurity. However, Singapore believes that we should remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthen the global framework anchored by multilateral cooperation, trust, and the common objective of a safer world.

3. Today, with 184 States Parties, the BWC is a cornerstone multilateral agreement in disarmament and non-proliferation. This is especially so as it is the only legally binding instrument that prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpile and use of biological and toxin weapons.

4. Singapore is committed to implementing our treaty obligations under the BWC, including by submitting annual Confidence Building Measures (CBM) reports to the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU). Singapore has put in place a robust biosafety and security regime, underpinned by the Biological Agents and Toxins Act (BATA). We constantly review our legislation and procedures to ensure they remain relevant and aligned with international best practices. By 2025, Singapore will have our first Biosafety Level (BSL) 4 lab, which will be equipped to handle highly infectious and lethal diseases such as Ebola.

5. With the new challenges we face today, it is timely for BWC States Parties to renew our commitment and discuss ways we can work together to strengthen the BWC.

Mr President,

6. Besides the BWC, Singapore is also doing our part to strengthen our response to the range of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats we face today. Singapore is party to various international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Singapore is part of the Network of ASEAN CBR Defence Experts, and hosted the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus CBR Conference in October this year. This is the first time we have gathered together CBR experts from ASEAN Member States, our Plus partners, and international organisations to strengthen the region's capacity to address CBR threats from non-state actors. We remain committed to working closely with the international community to strengthen counter-proliferation efforts to address threats in the CBRN domain.

7. Singapore reaffirms our continued commitment to the objectives of the BWC – a world without biological and toxin weapons. To this end, we stress the importance of working collectively for global security. I wish you and all distinguished delegates a successful and productive conference.

Thank you.