



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
THE NINTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND THEIR
DESTRUCTION**

28 November – 16 December 2022, Geneva

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the office as the President of the Ninth Review Conference. We extend our full support in your endeavours.

Türkiye considers the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as one of the key components of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime and the cornerstone of efforts to prevent biological agents and toxins to be used as arms.

With this understanding, Türkiye is strictly committed to the provisions and obligations of the Convention, and will remain to be so.

We believe that the Convention has an essential role to play today and in the future.

The Review Conference provides us a forum to assess the achievements and deficiencies of the previous recommendations and decisions, and to seek areas of consensus for the the effective functioning and strengthening. of the Convention.

Türkiye will actively and constructively engage in any endeavours to this end throughout the Conference and beyond.

Mr. President,

Please let me briefly share our views on the outstanding issues in our agenda.

We acknowledge the existing gap in efforts to review the developments in the field of science and technology.

In principle, we support regular review of science and technology by experts. It would be an efficient and inclusive approach to carve out areas of converging ideas in the working papers.

Despite the record increase in annual CBM reports following the Covid-19 pandemic, it is inadequate that only half of the State Parties submitted them in 2022. Türkiye has submitted its reports regularly and encourages all States Parties to do the same.

We believe that efforts aimed at building and sustaining confidence in compliance should be an important part and parcel of our discussion under this house and our future efforts.

Article 5 of the Convention provides an appropriate forum to consult both at bilateral and multilateral levels and to cooperate in solving any problems which may arise in relation to the objective, or the application of the Convention.

A consultative meeting under the Article 5 was held on 5-9 September 2022 in Geneva upon request, in which Türkiye constructively engaged.

A verification regime is a long-lasting gap in the Convention. We are of the opinion that an improved system like the one in the Chemical Weapons Convention might strengthen the efficacy of the Convention.

At the same time, we recognize the challenges to design such a regime under this Convention. A dedicated discussion on strengthening the current mechanisms and the overall implementation of the Convention is also an important step we should take to this end.

Türkiye supports strengthening the implementation of Article 7, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States Parties.

Türkiye gives utmost importance to Article 10 of the Convention, which allows State Parties, for peaceful purposes, to cooperate, develop capacities to counter biological threats and pandemics, and participate in the exchange of equipment, materials and information.

We believe that improved implementation of this article, including in science and technology, would also be essential in building confidence among state parties as well as the international community, and in developing the capacities that work to prevent and contain pandemics.

We welcome the accession of six states since the last Review Conference, and call upon all states not a party to the BWC to adhere to it without any further delay.

Mr. President,

While globalisation and information technology render scientific knowledge more accessible, it also increases the possibility of its misuse by terrorist organizations.

Türkiye fully acknowledges that bioterrorism and facilitated access to materials, technology and know-how on different forms of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist organizations is a major threat to humanity and international security.

Before concluding, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank the ISU for the work it has provided, including the background documents.

Türkiye will continue to actively and constructively support any efforts for the effective functioning and strengthening of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. President.