
Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

18 December 2024

English only

2024 Meeting
Geneva, 16 December 2024

Statement by Japan at the 2024 Meeting of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention*

Submitted by Japan

Mr. Chairperson,

1. At the outset, I would like to convey our deepest appreciation to you, H.E. Ambassador Yuri Sterk, on assuming the Chairpersonship of the Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention under these difficult circumstances. Let me assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.
2. Furthermore, Japan reiterates its appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their significant contribution in supporting the various aspects of the implementation of the BWC, despite their limited capacity.
3. The world is facing an increasingly challenging security environment. We are witnessing attempts to alter the status quo by force which is shaking the international order which the international community has built. It is now more difficult than ever for States to cooperate with one another due to their divergent interests.
4. Against this backdrop, the BWC will mark the 50th anniversary of its entry into force next year. Over the past 50 years, biotechnology has made remarkable progress. New technologies such as genome editing and Artificial Intelligence have brought great benefits to humanity. However, such technologies, if misused, could lead to the production of biological weapons with devastating effects. These technologies are also accessible to a wide range of actors including non-state actors, sparking concern over the possible proliferation of biological weapons.
5. Considering the growing threat of the production of biological weapons, States Parties have been engaging in thorough discussions at the Working Group established by the 9th Review Conference in 2022. Under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Meyer of Brazil, we have conducted in-depth discussions, building on the advances made during the former Chairmanship of Ambassador Damico of Brazil, especially on the S&T mechanism and the ICA mechanism. During the intersessional period, the Friends of the Chair for each topic held several informal consultations and circulated non-papers, which contributed significantly to furthering the discussions.
6. At the fifth session of the Working Group held over the last two weeks, States Parties considered these two mechanisms based on the Friends of the Chair's non-papers and the Chairperson's roadmap, in hopes to expedite consensus towards their establishment. We are, in this light, deeply disappointed that we were not able to reach such consensus. However, the Working Group will continue its work. Making the most of the we have momentum

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



fostered, Japan will continue to engage positively and constructively in discussions to strengthen the BWC.

Mr. Chairperson,

7. National implementation, transparency and confidence-building measures and other topics of the mandate continue to play a major role. Japan attaches great importance to confidence-building measures and has provided assistance in improving the submission of CBM reports, particularly in South-East Asian countries. Therefore, we are very pleased that 108 countries, the highest number yet, have submitted CBM reports so far this year.

Mr. Chairperson,

8. As one of the Friends of the Chair on the topic of organizational, institutional and financial arrangements, Japan has supported the discussions of the Working Group by presenting the financial implications of the various measures proposed by States Parties, and will continue to contribute to future discussions.

Mr. Chairperson,

9. To conclude, in the rapidly changing and challenging security environment, and considering the ever increasing developments in science and technology, States Parties must once again recall the momentum they shared when the BWC entered into force 50 years ago, and through the discussions at the Working Group, must materialise our shared goal of strengthening the Convention to better address the threats of biological weapons. Japan reaffirms its commitment to the BWC and calls on all States Parties to demonstrate their utmost commitment to unity and cooperation in order for the Working Group to steadily, reliably and urgently achieve its mandate.
