

**Formal Consultative 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**

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Item 6 of the agenda

**Respective outstanding questions by the Russian Federation
to the United States and to Ukraine concerning the fulfilment
of their respective obligations under the Convention in the context
of the operation of biological laboratories in Ukraine**

**National statement delivered by Mr. Henrik
Yeritsyan**

Submitted by Armenia

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges we face today have impacted on our views on multilateralism and international cooperation. These challenges led our governments to review their policies on some security-related issues, including biosafety and biosecurity domain. Furthermore, we all realized that these kind of global threats should be addressed through joint efforts of the international community.

Dear colleagues,

2. As a strong supporter of the non-proliferation policies Armenia remains committed to the full and universal implementation of the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention. In order to achieve these objectives, the Government of Armenia has constantly strengthened its national capacities and capabilities in the area of biological safety and security. It is worth mentioning that these accomplishments have been done with the assistance of our partner countries and international institutions, in particular the Russian Federation, the United States and the European Union. Moreover, at multilateral level we have contributed to the draft proposals and projects of our partners aimed at strengthening the mechanisms of the implementation of the Convention. In particular, Armenia supported the initiatives of the Russian Federation to establish Mobile Biomedical Units as well, as Scientific Advisory Committee which are aimed to deal with emerging scientific and new technological developments. These projects are also designed to take the measures within BWC for investigating possible misuse of biological agents and addressing potential infectious disease outbreaks.

3. At the same time, Armenia recognizes the legitimate right of any state to propose an inquiry on possible biological threats, which may arise in relation to the application of the BWC provisions, including cooperation within Article X: such concerns should be taken into account respectfully and addressed in the spirit of transparency and cooperation.

4. A lot of work has to be done in prioritizing institutional strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention, and increase of the operational capabilities of BWC. Significant steps should be taken to raise bio-risk reduction management awareness and to envisage concrete country focused operational initiatives. Armenia stresses also the importance of the



development and strengthening of the confidence-building measures, noting that within the framework of the BWC, they contribute to reducing misperceptions and strengthening transparency and trust among participating states.

Thank you.
