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**Meeting of the State Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention  
Statement by Ambassador Antonio Guerreiro,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament**

Mr. President,

First and foremost, I would like to extend to you my warmest congratulations on your work as President of the 2012 BWC Meetings. The Brazilian delegation appreciates your willingness to take this task, and you can count on our support to your efforts this week in seeking a successful meeting.

Brazil fully associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States.

Mr. President,

We take note of the proposed agenda, which is based in the compromise reached at the VII Review Conference.

Regarding the first standing agenda item, cooperation, discussions within the BWC have shown the unequivocal importance of prioritizing capacity-building with a view to successfully implementing the Convention. We believe that actions and initiatives in this regard should be the object of request by recipient countries, in accordance with their needs and aspirations. In this sense, Brazil welcomes the establishment of an electronic platform to convey offers and demands of cooperation, as agreed in the Review Conference.

With regard to the second standing agenda item, science and technology, it is clear that there have been tremendous developments in this area, since the BWC came into force, in 1975. This has potential consequences for the Convention. Brazil believes that States Parties should facilitate the exchange of materials, equipment and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes, as well as initiatives of capacity-building. Brazil has always upheld the notion that countries possessing advanced technology in biosciences ought not hinder the access by developing countries to those technologies, and that the prohibitions of Article I should not result in unjustified technology denials.

Regarding the adoption of codes of conduct and other measures to encourage "responsible behavior" by researchers, scientists and industry, Brazil believes that the definition of such norms remains a national prerogative. Bioethics should be promoted by each State, and we consider that a more constructive and efficient approach to this important issue would be the approach of education and awareness-raising about risks and benefits of life sciences and biotechnology, which can also be enhanced through international cooperation.

On national implementation, the third standing agenda item, repeated discussions have taken place in previous intersessional periods. Each State Party should ideally be prompted to raise its necessities on national implementation and, by means of a request for cooperation, receive support from countries able to provide it.

As for the biennial item on our agenda, Confidence Building Measures, we encourage State Parties which have not submitted their forms to do so and, in that sense, we support initiatives such as regional or international seminars to enhance States' capabilities to provide information in this regard. We continue to believe that the strengthening of CBMs cannot replace the existence of an effective verification regime based on a Protocol to the BWC, to be negotiated by States Parties.

Ambassador Delmi, the Brazilian delegation is ready to engage in this week's exercise under your leadership, and you may count on our full support.

Thank you.