

STATEMENT BY ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CHILE, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, MEXICO, PERU AND URUGUAY TO THE SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

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Thank you Mr President. On behalf of the delegations of the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay, as well as on behalf of the delegation of Argentina, I would like to congratulate you on your election to guide the work of this Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention. I would like to, through you, Mr President, congratulate the other Members of the Bureau, and also I would like to thank the Secretariat. We are fully convinced that under your skilful leadership we will achieve success in our work.

Mr President, in line with the commitment taken during the Preparatory Meeting, we are presenting – we have presented five Working documents in order to contribute to the strengthening of our Convention. These documents are as follows: document on Universalisation, on the Follow-Up Mechanism, on Confidence-Building Measures, on Scientific Cooperation, and the Transfer of Technology -and the eventual creation of a support unit.

In the document on Universalization, we are appealing to all States to withdraw reservations to the 1925 Protocol, and we also call upon them to adopt a Plan of Action in order to facilitate membership of other States in the Convention on Biological Weapons, including the commitment of all Parties to intensify their efforts at the bilateral level, as well as in regional and multilateral meetings. And also work on exchange of experience in the area of legislation. And finally, we invite States to designate a national focal point, someone who will be able to coordinate at the national level all the issues and all of the work being done under the Convention. On the issue of CBMs, we are proposing to improve their application and study the possibility of standard performance that would facilitate compliance and understanding of these issues, and here we are proposing the creation of a Group of Governmental Experts.

Now on the issue of Scientific Cooperation and the Transfer of Technology, we stress the importance to ensure the effectiveness of activities for peaceful purposes, especially in the area of public health, agriculture, and the fishing industry. And here, we are proposing to develop an effective mechanism and to present on an annual basis information on steps that have been taken. We also are proposing the establishment of a flexible follow-up mechanism for the years from 2006 to 2011, with a possibility to take decisions and identify individual programmes on an annual basis, something that will include the developments in the area of biotechnology, genetic engineering, microbiology,

and other related areas. This proposal takes into account the fact that the ad hoc intersessional mechanism adopted in 2002 was very useful in order to keep open channels of communication between States Parties to the Convention.

And finally, we are proposing the creation of a Support Unit that will facilitate preparatory activities by countries and provide them with assistance in order to better comply with their commitments under the Convention, especially in the areas of national legislation and the presentation of annual reports.

Mr President, the work here by our delegation has allowed us to see that there is a close link between the various issues being discussed here, and also the high level of agreement that can be reached between States Parties on these issues. This will hopefully allow us to adopt decisions that will strengthen this important multilateral instrument and improve the possibilities for its adoption after this review Conference.