

**BWC MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
10–14 December 2012**

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Transcription

LIBYA

I would like to start by congratulating you on your election as Chair of this Conference. We are certain that your wisdom and your skills will ensure that we will achieve the best possible result during this meeting.

Our countries meet annually here since the entry into force of the BWC and the point of these meetings is to focus on the aims of this Convention, that is, the aspirations of our people to peace, security and progress and prosperity as part of our common effort. Achievements have been made in a number of areas but challenges still remain: some of these challenges are long standing; some of them are more recent and there are, for instance, epidemics, a great explosion in the number of diseases and – on the other hand – we have significant scientific progress.

There are challenges, as I have said, to be taken up: WMD, countering terrorism and, on the other hand, the need to draw on scientific developments with objectives which take account of ethical norms. International solidarity shows itself in direct action and this is the only way forward to ensure that we can eliminate these fearful weapons – that is to say biological weapons – the aim being to ensure international peace and security.

Now success has been achieved: that was true of the Seventh Review Conference of the Convention but now it is important to implement the recommendations of that Conference and those of other conferences. In order to ensure compliance with an implementation of the provisions of the Convention and also to draw on progress in the area of biotechnology in order to put an end to the great number of infectious diseases across the world in order to enhance the prosperity of our countries.

It is important to achieve international cooperation in an effective fashion under the aegis of the United Nations in order to put an end to terrorism and in order to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. These are a threat for millions of people throughout the world. We must therefore work seriously to achieve the objectives of this Convention and reduce any hindrance to scientific progress. At the same time developed countries must keep to their commitments vis-à-vis less advanced countries when it comes to technology transfers towards those countries in order to eliminate diseases and epidemics which cost millions of people their lives.

Article X of the Convention is of great importance for its States Parties when it comes to scientific exchange and cooperation and, in particular, when it comes to the exchange of biotechnology and biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.

In order to bolster cooperation between States Parties we need to take these steps forward to eliminate diseases and epidemics and to ensure sustainable development. We consider that

Article X has no sense unless it is backed by the appropriate firm political will to ensure that effective measures are taken to encourage scientific and technological exchange and to make sure that biological material is used for peaceful purposes. Each and every State must commit to tangible measures to ensure compliance with Article X and we must make sure that we encourage economic and technological development and prevent any kind of restriction when it comes to the revision of this Convention.

We must encourage scientific exchanges between States Parties and ensure that the States can contribute to technological transfer for the benefit of developing countries and also assist with training in the area of biological sciences and build human capacity.

States Parties must also commit not to take discriminatory measures which are contrary to the Convention and which prevent the transfer of biotechnological knowledge for peaceful purposes as well as biological agents and toxins especially in the area of biotechnology and genetic engineering and medical applications as well as agricultural and other applications of these agents as well as pharmaceutical purposes.

Efforts must be made to ensure an improved compliance with the Convention and improved cooperation in the area of the peaceful use of biotechnology and the use of agents and toxins in order to diagnose diseases and put an end to the increasing number of diseases.

By way of conclusion, Libya will make every effort to ensure effective cooperation, internationally speaking, in order to ensure that humanity is spared the dangers of weapons of mass destruction and in order to ensure that we achieve a world which is free of all WMDs and in which all people will live in peace and security.