

## **Intervention by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on agenda item 4 of MX 5 (2020)**

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The contribution of the BWC to international peace and security is undisputable.

This convention lacks an institutional mechanism for its implementation. The BWC States Parties face a big challenge on how to establish a comprehensive and legally binding mechanism for strengthening the Convention. The Convention needs such a mechanism; a comprehensive and reliable one.

It is disappointing that due to the opposition of a single State Party, the endeavors of the States Parties to the BWC to strengthen the implementation of the Convention through the adoption of a legally binding additional protocol to the Convention could not achieve the desired result. Strengthening of the Convention through a comprehensive and non-discriminatory legally binding protocol should not be captive to the policy of one State Party.

We believe that the only effective way to strengthen the Convention is a legally binding instrument. Negotiations should be resumed on such a legally binding protocol. Piecemeal solutions, incremental approach and fragmented proposals are not going to strengthen the Convention. They are divisive.

The BWC States Parties agreed to having an Inter-Sessional Programme, as an interim measure to bypass the stalemate created as a result of the blocking of the negotiation process of the protocol. The ISP was not supposed to replace the Protocol. The ISP provides a provisional forum for the discussions and consultations among the States Parties in order to enhance the common understanding on its better implementation

The aim of the ISP shall be strengthening the convention in its entirety. It shall not lead to the selective implementation of the Convention. According to Article XII of the Convention, the Conference of States Parties, known as Review Conference, is the only forum of States Parties of the Convention with the

decision making power. Decision making is the prerogative of the Review Conference and should not be delegated to the ISP.

The most effective and pragmatic option to strengthen the Convention is through resuming the negotiations of a legally binding Protocol to the Convention.

While I have the floor, I would like to make two points. We share the concern expressed by the distinguished representative of China regarding the biological activities and laboratories of one State Party all over the world particularly in the Central Asia and Caucasus region. We hope that the State Party would provide and show transparency with regard to activities in those laboratories. With respect to working paper 6, I would like to thank Panama for introducing the working paper. The working contains some proposals on which there are differences of views on how to address them.