

Statement by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on agenda item of 4 of MX 2

Agenda item 6 - Development of a voluntary model code of conduct for biological scientists and all relevant personnel, and biosecurity education, by drawing on the work already done on this issue in the context of the Convention, adaptable to national requirements

I thank China and Pakistan for introducing their working paper on the Tianjin biosecurity guidelines for codes of conduct for scientists. I also thank for the technical presentation on the Tianjin biosecurity guidelines.

Regarding this working paper, we note this new and informative working paper and continue to examine its content and see how the Tianjin biosecurity guidelines could contribute to existing or new codes of conduct at national level.

We note that these guidelines developed by some universities and participation of 20, scientists from 16 countries and they are now available as a useful source.

We look forward to having governmental deliberations in the next meetings of the Convention with a view to reach a common understanding and hopefully recognizing them appropriately.

Ethical and responsible behavior by biological scientists contributes to upholding the object and purpose of the Convention.

BWC States parties should continue to raise awareness of the obligations contained in the Convention among relevant national stakeholders and stress the need for responsible conduct by biological scientists.

Codes of conduct and self-regulatory mechanisms for biological professionals play an important role in raising awareness. Encouraging and supporting the stakeholders to voluntarily develop codes of conduct should be pursued at the national level.

In view of differences in national circumstances, each States Party may opt its own specific approach to develop codes of conduct and its content.

It is important that national codes of conduct incorporate a clear requirement that biological science should be used for peaceful purposes only.

As a matter of principle and in line with article X of the Convention, national codes of conduct should avoid impeding scientific discovery, placing undue constraints on research or international cooperation and exchange for peaceful purposes.