

## **Statement by the United Arab Emirates**

### **At the 2021 Meetings of Experts of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons**

#### **First meeting, August 30-31, 2021**

#### **Discussing ways of joint cooperation and assistance in the areas related to item 10**

*Article X: The States Parties to this Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.*

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, I thank you for the opportunity to participate, and we congratulate you for chairing this meeting. We also express our appreciation for the efforts of all those in charge of these meetings and the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons, and our gratitude for the role of the United Nations in this regard.

As we know, the world is currently going through exceptional and unprecedented circumstances whose effects and repercussions have been reflected on all aspects of our social, economic, civil and political life, which made us witness a different lifestyle imposed by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We take this opportunity to stress that the United Arab Emirates is making great efforts in confronting the new coronavirus disease, Covid-19, and all the efforts made by the State come with its vision towards preparing for the post-Covid 19 stage.

The UAE has been keen to continue to strengthen solidarity and international cooperation and to respond quickly to the various challenges facing the international community as a result of the spread of the new coronavirus. By building field hospitals in Sudan, Guinea (Conakry), Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Lebanon and Jordan, in addition to building a mobile clinic in Turkmenistan, and the UAE was keen to strengthen its partnerships and cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels in order to combat the pandemic.

The UAE's aid was not limited to countries, but extended to international organizations, as \$10 million was provided in kind to the World Health Organization. The UAE also sent aid from the warehouses of international organizations located in the International

Humanitarian City in Dubai to 117 countries. Moreover, WHO medical materials were transferred to Iran, Ethiopia and Somalia.

In addition, the International Humanitarian City in Dubai played a leading role in terms of the logistical operations of international organizations whose strategic warehouses are located in it and is the first responder to global crises, especially in aid related to the Covid-19 virus, as the volume of aid sent to the affected countries by the World Health Organization through its warehouses in the International Humanitarian City in Dubai reached more than 80% of the WHO's international response.

Mr. President,

The efforts and measures taken by the United Arab Emirates in the context of combating the Covid-19 pandemic were in line with the directives, guidelines and recommendations issued by specialized international organizations. The process of foreseeing the future to confront crises and disasters, and a joint national platform for reporting on biological threats was launched, with the aim of enhancing means of immediate reporting on those threats under one integrated system, and addressing and responding to them within the framework of enhancing preparedness, managing crises and mitigating their effects.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that the UAE is making many efforts, especially with regard to implementing the national strategy for biosecurity, including building material and human capacities, as well as building capabilities and plans to prevent the transformation of biological agents into security threats.

Thank you.