Statements by the United Arab Emirates

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

2nd meeting, September 3, 2021

Discuss the latest developments in science and technology and enhance communication between scientists who conduct biological research related to the Convention

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate. We also congratulate you on presiding over this meeting. On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, we express our appreciation for the efforts made by those who are in charge of these meetings and the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons.

We would like to emphasize that the United Arab Emirates will continue to support international efforts to abide by and implement the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention, through its keenness to continue its support for the efforts made to keep abreast of scientific and technical developments in the field of biosecurity and to enhance communication between scientists specialized in biological research.

The United Arab Emirates believes that innovation is the asset of the future and the UAE Vision 2021 confirms this approach in the different fields and sectors, as it aspires that innovation, research, science and technology will form the main pillars of a competitive knowledge economy with high productivity. In addition, innovation in the health sector is critical given the importance of the individual’s health in social and economic development alike, through the efforts of advanced societies to develop a health system that is based on the best international standards and enhances the quality of life.

In this context, the United Arab Emirates launched its 2019-2021 innovation strategy in the health sector as part of its agenda for the future of healthcare, under the slogan “Leadership in innovation for a world-class healthcare system” with the aim of strengthening the position of the United Arab Emirates as a leading
global model in proactively facing future challenges (including biorisks), and a leading global destination for a sustainable future in smart health care, by reinventing all health services, developing research centers, creating local and global partnerships to improve preparedness to confront future diseases, integrating technology in diagnostics and treatment by making use of analytical data and build more resilience to prevent diseases and epidemics and anticipate them.

The UAE leadership has also launched the “National Innovation Strategy”, which aims to make the UAE among the most innovative countries in the world over the next seven years. The strategy targets seven sectors: “renewable energy, transportation, education, health, technology, water, and space.” The first phase includes 30 national initiatives, each of which will be completed within three years. This phase includes: “Developing new legislation, establishing centers for creativity and innovation, investing in special skills, providing incentives to the private sector, establishing research partnerships with international institutions, and introducing innovation drivers within the government.”

This strategy also promotes the use of advanced technologies in the provision of healthcare services. It also supports the growth of the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, and collaboration with strategic partners to support medical research in the country.

The UAE has also developed a framework for research governance with the aim of sustainability in excellence and global leadership in innovative research in the area of health care, engaging stakeholders and establishing a network of partnerships and cooperation with federal government agencies, health and academic authorities, and private entities. This in turn contributes to effective strategic support for innovative health research initiatives, prioritizing support and follow-up.

The United Arab Emirates headed towards implementing artificial intelligence and digital medical services, and launched an innovation fund of 2 billion dirhams, which aims to finance innovative ideas in all sectors, through cooperation between various institutions and stakeholders in the country. Priority is given to renewable energy, transportation, education, health, technology, water and space. The Ministry of Health and Community Protection has also developed a comprehensive plan to integrate 100% artificial intelligence into medical services in order to implement the UAE strategy for artificial intelligence and data analysis at a rate of 100% by 2021.
In the field of disease control through preventive measures, the national agenda is based on the UAE Vision 2021 with regard to implementing a health system of the highest international standards, consolidating the preventive aspects, and developing the health system’s readiness to deal with epidemics and health risks (including epidemics and biorisks).

The United Arab Emirates has also achieved 6 giant scientific achievements over the past period, most notably the creation of a treatment for Covid-19 with stem cells, as the Abu Dhabi Stem Cell Center announced last May that it had obtained a patent for treating Corona patients with stem cells, a treatment developed by a team of doctors and researchers from the Abu Dhabi Stem Cell Center (ADSCC). The treatment includes extracting stem cells from the patient’s blood and reintroducing them after activation, and has been tried in the country on more than 2000 cases so far and has been successfully completed.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that the UAE, through the National Biosecurity Committee, is committed to applying and implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons at the national and international levels. The UAE calls on the international community to intensify cooperation, exchange experiences, and invest in the fields of research, scientific development and innovation, which would create a cornerstone in serving humanity to overcome future challenges.

Thank you.