Statements by the United Arab Emirates

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

3rd meeting, September 3, 2021

Promote and support applications specific to the field (implementation of the provisions of the Confidence Building Agreement) at the national level in countries

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 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.

At the outset, we would like to emphasize the UAE’s continued support for international efforts to abide by and implement the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention, which has a prominent role in prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons, in addition to its clear role in obligating international parties to destroy those prohibited weapons.

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. In this respect, the United Arab Emirates thanks the international community for its efforts and initiatives to combat the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, which demonstrated the commitment of States to implement the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention.

We affirm that the United Arab Emirates is making great efforts in confronting the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Hence, since the beginning of the outbreak of the virus worldwide, the UAE has taken upon itself the responsibility to preserve the health and safety of society, by launching a wide package of
legislation, policies and decisions as well as precautionary and preventive measures that have greatly contributed to limiting the negative effects and consequences of the pandemic. All the efforts made by the UAE come in line with its vision towards preparing for the post-Covid 19 stage, which is based on protecting the national gains achieved on all levels, and enhancing the preparedness of the State and its institutions for the next stage in all sectors with the aim of starting a safe move with greater capabilities, foundations and new working mechanisms that enable them to transform challenges into opportunities.

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 such as the World Health Organization, and the bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations human rights committees represented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, treaty bodies and the special procedures. These were also in line with the guidelines issued by the regional human rights bodies and mechanisms represented by the League of Arab States.

These principles have contributed to strengthening and developing the efforts made by the UAE to combat the pandemic. The UAE has also exchanged experiences and best practices and transferred knowledge to combat the pandemic at the international level and in cooperation with the international community, believing in the need to intensify cooperation and concerted efforts of the international community to confront the Covid 19 virus.

You know that the UAE is considered a global transit hub for goods coming from East to West. This requires keeping pace with the requirements of command and control of materials that pass and enter the country, by following the best international practices to develop and strengthen control, preparedness and response procedures to prevent risks, including biorisks and control and reduce their negative effects when they occur, and contribute to enhancing the security and safety of the homeland and the citizens, which is a main pillar in the UAE Vision 2021.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates stresses the importance of exchanging views on means and strategies related to the Biological Weapons Convention, and expresses its gratitude for the leading role played by the United Nations in this regard. Therefore, at the national level, the UAE government has issued a series of
legislation, rules, regulations and decisions to prevent the transformation of biological factors into threats in the context of combating the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons, the UAE has worked to address any negative impact of biological factors or any incident resulting from them that may affect the country in many ways, such as its effects on the safety of society, politics, economy, tourism and others.

The UAE has also adopted a series of national policies, strategies and plans to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, the most important of which are: the national sterilization program, the distance education system, the launch of the smart system for services, the national program for at-home coronavirus testing for people of determination (people with disabilities), the psychological and moral assistance program, the Guide to Care for Senior Emiratis and Protect them From Pandemics, the national program for the Covid-19 vaccination, and the UAE’s post-Covid 19 strategy.

Since May 2020, the most prominent UAE achievements and best practices in combating the Covid 19 pandemic have been through the development of a rapid technology to monitor the Coronavirus using a laser and a treatment for the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) infections using stem cells, the provision of equipment to the Emirates Humanitarian City in Abu Dhabi, the establishment of a preventive health center within 48 hours prepared to receive nationals of brotherly and friendly countries and ensure their safety, and the implementation of a project to learn from best practices in managing the emerging crisis of the Coronavirus outbreak by forming a working team with expertise in the field of institutional learning and benchmarking.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that the United Arab Emirates, through the National Biosecurity Committee, is making many efforts, especially with regard to the implementation of the national biosecurity strategy, in particular building material and human capacities. The United Arab Emirates continues to this day to implement the biosecurity strategy to enhance biological security by promulgating and updating legislation, building capabilities and plans to prevent
the transformation of biological factors into security threats, and addressing any negative impact or accident resulting from biological factors that may affect the country socially, politically, economically or tourism, with a focus on efforts and cooperation between national authorities and institutions, as well as on attracting and qualifying national cadres and involving society effectively, with the aim of achieving integrated biological security, and contributing to enhancing the security and safety of the nation.

Thank you.