Finland Statement
Meeting of States Parties
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
Geneva, 22-25 November 2021

Thank you Mr. Chair.

Finland Fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union. We have a few additional remarks from our national perspective.

Let me start by expressing our full support and appreciation to Ambassador Dr. Cleopa Mailu, Permanent Representative of Kenya for his chairmanship of this Meeting of States Parties. I would also like to thank the Implementation Support Unit for the continued valuable support to the States Parties in implementing the BTWC.

Finland is a strong supporter of the BTWC. The Convention is the first multilateral disarmament treaty to ban an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. It is a key component of the international non-proliferation and disarmament framework, and a vital pillar of the rules-based international system.

Universal adherence, national implementation and compliance lay the basis for any disarmament treaty. Finland supports efforts to promote confidence building and transparency measures. We are pleased that this year a record number of countries submitted their annual confidence building report. However, despite the positive development there are still many State Parties, which did not submit their annual report. We invite all State Parties to submit their annual CBM report.

Finland underlines the importance of whole of society and One Health approaches in preventing, preparing and responding to biological threats. Rapid advancements in life sciences and biotechnology highlight the importance of cooperation and transparency between State Parties. Initiatives such as the establishment of a systematic and structured science and technology review process, Code of Conduct for scientists, and a creation of a dedicated exchange platform for voluntary transparency exercises are all concrete steps towards the right direction.
ISU provides invaluable assistance to States Parties for the implementation of the Convention. Finland supports the strengthening of the ISU. It is our joint responsibility to ensure that the ISU has the resources to perform all its core functions. We call on all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions on time and in full and we urge States Parties in arrears to pay their dues without further delay.

International cooperation and assistance under article X are essential to ensure that States Parties can receive support in their capacity building efforts, particularly in fields of biosecurity and biosafety. We are currently in the final phase of providing a financial contribution to the ISU to strengthen the implementation of the article X. Our financial support aims to strengthen developing countries’ expertise and capacity to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

Finland stands ready to support all efforts aiming at establishing structures, procedures or mechanisms that advance the implementation and compliance of the Convention. We are committed to work constructively with other States Parties and civil society in the run up towards the Ninth Review Conference.

Last, but not least, Finland remains a strong supporter of promoting gender equality, also in the context of the BTWC.

Thank you Mr. Chair.