1. Finland fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union. In addition, we have few remarks from national perspective on Article X.

2. We would like to emphasize the important role that international support, including initiatives like Signature Initiative have played in building sustainable health capacities to enable countries to prevent, detect and respond to future infectious disease threats of different origins. In addition, we acknowledge and encourage the role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of Article X. I would also like to highlight and commend the crucial role of the BTWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) in facilitating the implementation of Article X. I invite all States Parties to make full use of the BTWC Cooperation and Assistance Database.

3. In addition to our ongoing program on biosafety and biosecurity in Tanzania, Finland has just recently contributed 20,000 EUR to accelerate three following Article X related objectives: 1) to Strengthen implementation of the BWC in developing countries, particularly under Article X; 2) to strengthen developing countries’ expertise and capacity to fulfil their obligations under the BWC and foster South-South cooperation in this regard and finally 3) to Support efforts to promote biological safety and security and peaceful use in developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

August 2021 Finland chaired the last Meeting of Experts on Article X during this intersessional period. As a concrete result of the work done during the intersessional period within Meetings of Experts Philippines, Georgia and Finland and Norway have produced a joint working paper to Review Conference entitled "Outline of Proposals to Enhance the Institutional Machinery of the Biological and Toxin Convention (BWC) in the Context of Cooperation and Assistance Under Article X" to the PrepCom. This document has been recently uploaded as an official working paper of the Conference at the UN website. States-Parties are invited and encourage to consider the proposals to take forward the work of in improving cooperation and assistance in the context of Article X.

4. To conclude, Article X will remain as one the key priorities of Finland, not only as a stand-alone objective but horizontally linking all articles - to make sure that no one is left behind in supporting the implementation of BWC as a whole.

Thank you