Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee to the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)  
4-11 April 2022

Agenda Item 7: Comprehensive Consideration of All Provisions of the Convention

Implementation of Article X  
Delivered by H.E. Maria Teresa T. Almojuela,  
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Mister Vice Chair,

States Parties have reached numerous important agreements and understandings on Article X in previous Review Conferences. The ISU’s background document under this agenda item of the meeting has the most extensive reference to agreements and understandings under this Article, and this reflects the significance attached to this article by many States Parties.

The Philippines attaches high priority to the implementation of Article X, which affirms the right of all states to peaceful uses of life sciences and fully maximize their benefits in their efforts to advance development and the welfare and well-being of their citizens. Article X connects the BWC to broader efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Philippines has taken various initiatives in support of Article X implementation, including through an annual voluntary financial contribution since last year to support the ISU’s work related to the Article X Database. We need to invest more to fully realize the potential database as a platform for facilitating assistance under Article X.

We hope that States parties will reaffirm the commitment to pursue their Article X obligations and agree to establish robust institutional mechanisms to carry out such commitment in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner. This would require an
elaboration of the agreement reached in the 7th and 8th Review Conferences on the value of targeting and mobilizing resources, including financial resources to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information to help overcome challenges to disease surveillance, detection, management and containment.

We believe that Article X is an area where there are many low-hanging fruits that we can harvest to fully and effectively implement the BWC. We hark back to the rich discussions that took place during the intersessional processes, particularly the three meetings of MX1, which have cultivated ideas and elements that could help take our work forward.

Mr. Vice Chair,

Our distinguished colleague from Georgia has already announced that the chairs of the three iterations of MX1 during the Inter Sessional Process, the Philippines, Georgia, and Finland, together with active Article X advocate Norway, have submitted a working paper summarizing these practical ideas. This working paper was issued as BWC7CONF.IX/PC/WP.9.

These ideas can be organized among four clusters, namely:

- First, strengthening existing measures, including the optimization of value of national reports, upgrading the functionality of the database and systematic mapping of gaps, needs and assistance offers.

- Second, new measures to institutionalize a more programmatic approach to implement cooperation and assistance under the Convention;

- Third, concrete, ready-to-be rolled out and scalable initiatives that could become organic features of cooperation in the BWC context; and

- Fourth, broad proposals on how to better synergize the web of partnerships and collaboration between and among stakeholders in the BWC community, including international organizations and academic networks.

The proposals are not mutually-exclusive, they have a reinforcing effect on each other, and together they give us a picture of how a dynamic and organized framework for implementing Article X could look like.

It is our hope that these four clusters of proposals will help States Parties considerations of concrete outcomes at the Review Conference, and envisioning a roadmap for improving the institutional and programmatic implementation of Article X.

I thank you, Mister Vice Chair.