STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE
OCASION OF THE SUBMISSION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WORKING PAPER ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE VII (VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES) UNDER AGENDA ITEM
“COMPREHENSIVE CONSIDERATION TO ALL PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION” AT THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE NINTH REVIEW CONFERENCE FOR THE
BWC TO BE HELD FROM 4 TO 11 APRIL 2022 IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

Vice-Chairperson,

1. I would like to reiterate South Africa’s commitment to the full, effective, and balanced
implementation of the BWC. The Convention makes an important contribution to the
maintenance of international peace and security by preventing the threat posed by
biological weapons.

2. Regarding Article VII of the Convention, South Africa appreciates the reference that
degulations made to the South African working paper during the 2020 and 2021
Meetings of State Parties.

3. South Africa firmly believes in the importance of the humanitarian objective of this
Article and in the need to make it operational to all Member States. This point was
further reiterated in the final declaration of the Eighth Review Conference where it was
affirmed that: “should a request for assistance be made, it should be promptly
considered, and an appropriate response provided. In this context, in view of the
humanitarian imperative, the Conference encourages States Parties in a position to do
so to provide timely emergency assistance, if requested, pending consideration of a
decision by the Security Council.”

4. In this regard, South Africa believes that the proposed set of voluntary guidelines would
be an important contribution and a practical tool for the implementation of assistance
in case of alleged use of biological weapon.

5. South Africa would like to thank delegations that provided comments and suggestions
to further improve the paper and to those that have expressed support and
consideration for its possible adoption.

6. My delegation will continue to work on the proposal and will submit a revised paper for
the consideration of Member States. As previously stated, South Africa is willing to
engage further with States Parties on the proposal, as we move towards the Ninth
Review Conference.
7. We stand ready to work constructively towards an outcome that would strengthen the Convention and its balanced.

I thank you