



**CHAIR
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
GENEVA CHAPTER**



**MEETING OF EXPERTS ON REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY RELATED TO THE CONVENTION (MX2)**

**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON
THEIR DESTRUCTION (BWC)**

Geneva, 2 August 2019

**Statements on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to
the United Nations Office in Geneva**

Agenda Item 5: Biological risk assessment and management

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

The Group of NAM and other States Parties to BWC would like to reiterate some perspectives on the issues of biosafety and biosecurity which are part of the discussions on S&T review.

- First, the Group notes that both these issues were discussed in the last inter-sessional process as well as the Eighth Review Conference.
- Second, there is no commonly agreed definition of biosafety and biosecurity in the Convention. We strongly believe that the relevant national authorities should have the responsibility in defining and implementing such concepts, in accordance with relevant national laws, regulation and policies, consistent with the provisions of the Convention. The adoption of decisions and recommendations on this issue within the framework of the BWC belongs exclusively to the States Parties of the Convention.
- Third, achieving necessary standards in the fields of biosafety and biosecurity requires capacity building, and is facilitated by, international cooperation and through full and effective implementation of Article X of the Convention.

NAM and other States Parties to BWC believe that enhancing scientific and technological understanding will be inadequate if ways and means are not found for technology transfers by the developed countries to developing ones. The unhindered exchange of science and



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technology in the framework of the Convention is also important in the context of enhanced national implementation of the Convention by developing countries which in many circumstances lack resources- technological, financial and human – required for the effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.