



**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, 31 July 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 6: Development of a voluntary model code of conduct for biological scientists and all relevant personnel, and biosecurity education, by drawing on the work already done on this issue in the context of the Convention, adaptable to national requirements

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 congratulates you, Mr. Yury Nikolaichik from Belarus on your election as the Chair of this Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention.

The Group of NAM and other States Parties to the BWC is confident that with your knowledge and diplomatic skills you will be able to guide us to take our work forward effectively. The Group stands ready to engage constructively with you and other States Parties.

The Group of NAM and other States Parties to the BTWC would like to reiterate its position related to codes of conduct which are part of the discussions on S&T review.

The Codes of Conduct remain the prerogative of the States Parties to decide on the development, content, promulgation and adoption of the code in accordance with relevant national laws, regulations and policies, consistent with the provisions of the Convention.



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Voluntary Codes of Conduct should avoid any restrictions and/or limitations on exchange of scientific discoveries in the field of biology for prevention of disease and other peaceful purposes. Subjecting scientific research and the free flow of scientific information to undue restrictions and/or limitations may amount to a violation of obligations undertaken under Article X of the BWC.

The NAM and other States Parties to the BWC attach importance to the common understanding and effective action reached in 2012 and 2015 on the review of developments in the field of S&T. The Group emphasizes that a balanced approach towards consideration of all common understanding and effective action including those reached under agenda item “Review of the S&T developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention” is essential.

To that end, we are of the view that progress towards further common understanding and effective action under this agenda item including consideration of developments of voluntary codes of conduct, shall be pursued in a balanced and holistic manner. In this regard, the Group while emphasizing its position with regard to Code of Conduct as above, takes positive note of working paper BWC/MSP/2018/MX.2/WP.9 submitted by China and Pakistan on a Proposal for the development of a model code of conduct for biological scientists under the Biological Weapons Convention, and working paper BWC/MSP/2019/MX.2/WP.5 submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on Scientific and Technological Developments of Relevance to the Convention, for further consideration.

The NAM and other States Parties to the BWC is looking forward to work with all the States Parties on the continuation of the work in the framework of the Convention in the future.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.