

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING
OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**Fourth Meeting
Geneva, 10-14 December 2007**

**JACKSNNZ Opening Statement
General Debate**

Delivered by Ambassador Marius Grinius (Canada)

Mr. Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the JACKSNNZ, an informal group of countries (Japan, Australia, Canada, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Norway and New Zealand) from four different continents, which shares similar views on issues related to biological weapons and the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. We have been working together since the 2006 Review Conference to share ideas on how to strengthen the Convention.

This year's intersessional process has focussed needed attention on implementation of the Convention at the national level, and on cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels. We believe that enactment and effective enforcement of national and sub-national legislative measures are our core obligations under the Convention, and we continue to improve and refine these in line with evolving threats and technological progress. We recognise that achieving effective legislation, regulations and enforcement is neither easy nor is it a one-time project; it involves many stakeholders in our respective governments working together continuously, on rapidly

changing, highly technical issues. National implementation of the BTWC naturally involves biological science practitioners working among themselves and also in partnership with national governments, ensuring that there is a nexus between science and policy. Consequently, we are pleased to see representatives of civil society and the private sector at this meeting, and we are looking forward to continuing cooperative interaction this week and in the future.

Our seven countries believe that regional and sub-regional cooperation activities in areas such as enacting national legislation, export and import controls, and disease surveillance are important in supporting the BTWC's implementation. Working individually, we have sponsored regional and sub-regional cooperation activities, including seminars in many parts of the globe as well as workshops on the implementation of the obligations set out by Security Council Resolution 1540. Members of our group have made démarches to all non-States Parties, underlining that their adherence to the Convention will contribute to strengthening the BTWC's norms, and that adherence will also allow the countries concerned to take part more fully in peaceful cooperation in biological science and technology. We have made standing offers to assist countries when it comes to ratification procedures and in the preparation of national Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs).

We believe that the timely submission and availability of CBMs to other States Parties is critical to the full implementation of the BTWC.

In this regard, our countries submit annual CBMs which are on file with the Implementation Support Unit, both in hard copy and online, and some of the JACKSNNZ States have, as an additional measure of transparency, also posted their CBM returns on the public section of the ISU's website. We would urge all countries that are not yet doing so to submit CBMs to the ISU on an annual basis.

We commend the ISU and the good work that its three dedicated individuals have been able to do in such a short time to support the BTWC and States Parties.

The intersessional process is important to our seven countries. Looking to the immediate future, measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including for laboratories, and 'codes of conduct' in bio-science and bio-technology research, feature in next year's intersessional process. Mindful of the participation this week of civil society and private sector practitioners, our countries call on all here to start considering now possible elements toward 'codes of conduct' for researchers in the life sciences, building on the outcome of the 2005 Meeting of States Parties. Full implementation of the BTWC will occur when its key provisions are imparted and implemented in the classrooms and laboratories of all our nations. Accordingly, the real work of the BTWC will continue once we leave this hall on Friday, for if what happens in Geneva, stays in Geneva, our efforts to support the Convention will not bear fruit.

In closing, on behalf of the JACKSNNZ, may I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you, Ambassador Masood Khan. Together we acknowledge your tireless efforts to advance our intersessional work this past year.

For all your work, please accept our thanks, Mr. Chair.

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