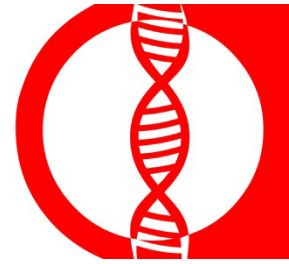




Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre
for Science and Peace Research

**Research Group for
Biological Arms Control**



Statement by the

**Research Group for Biological Arms Control
Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace
Research at the University of Hamburg, Germany**

to the Meeting of the States Parties to the
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

01 - 05 December 2014
Geneva

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I make this statement on behalf of the Research Group for Biological Arms Control at the Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research at the University of Hamburg in Germany. The mission of our Research Group is to contribute, through innovative research and outreach activities, to the universal prevention of biological weapons development, production and use. Our activities have two main focuses.. First, we work to prevent the erosion of the universal bioweapons prohibition by opposing activities that violate treaty obligations. Second, we develop new concepts and instruments to monitor activities relevant to bioweapons, and to verify and enforce compliance with the regulations against them.

Mr. Chairman,

We have recognised that the discussion on compliance has gained new momentum earlier this year. Although we understand that the way the debate was initiated is controversial among States Parties, we encourage all members of the regime to take the opportunity to actively develop proposals towards a mechanism to monitor compliance with the obligations of the BWC. The rapid acceleration of science and technology developments and the growing convergence with other fields is potentially creating new threats. The regime has to keep pace with this phenomenon. There is, however, not only a dark side to the developments in science and technology. Some of these might be used as enabling technologies for building transparency and therewith allow better investigations of compliance relevant parameters.

Today, technological progress allows the development of modern monitoring methodology. On-site methodology not endangering commercial secrets can be more easily provided than 15 years ago. Methods should be ready for use in voluntary or binding settings when requested. Instruments for off-site information gathering are today

applied in many regimes by States, International Organisations and civil society actors to produce objective empirical data with relevance for compliance obligations in the various regimes. These instruments for building transparency utilise, in many cases public information sources. We believe that it is high time to identify applicable methods for the exploitation of necessary sources – be it inspection technology to put on hold for the time being, or open source methodology for direct use.

We would like to invite you to attend the side event „Innovative and Enabling Technologies: Embracing Developments in S&T to benefit treaty implementation“, which we will hold jointly with OPCW and HSP on Wednesday at 9am in Room XXIV. It will illuminate the described facets of technology issues in monitoring and also put a spotlight on the problem of tacit knowledge.

Mr. Chairman,

We consider this all the more important as the functionality of the one available transparency mechanism in the BWC regime remains limited. Although the number of States who have submitted a CBM has considerably grown in 2014, the overall participation remains on a level which cannot be considered satisfactory. As of 27 November only 69 of the total 170 treaty members have submitted a CBM in 2014. Despite this fact, we applaud those states that participate in the CBM mechanism. 29 of the 69 submitting states decided to use the CBM mechanism not only as an inter-state transparency mechanism, but to actively promote public transparency by releasing their CBM to the general public on the ISU website, or by sending their CBM directly to us. As in the previous years, the Research Group for Biological Arms Control has summarized the information of the publicly available CBMs in a reader, which is available at the entrance.

Thank you for your attention!