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Statement by Pakistan at the Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), 23 November 2021

Agenda Item 6: *Consideration of the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts reflecting their deliberations, including possible outcomes:*

(b) Meeting of Experts on Review of Developments in the Field of Science and Technology Related to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan associates itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM and has a few additional comments under this agenda item.

We commend the work carried out in MX-2 this year under the able leadership of Mr. Nakai of Japan and also thank Mr. Ometsu for his detailed presentation, yesterday. We take note of the Report contained in document BWC/MSP/2020/MX.2/2, including the Annex prepared by the Chairperson, under his own responsibility, summarizing the discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to recall the joint Working Paper submitted by China and Pakistan at Mx-2 and to this MSP on the Tianjin biosecurity guidelines. As this august gathering is well aware advances in biological science and technology continue to foster human health and well-being. At the same time, potential risks of misuse or abuse remain. In our view, the development of biosecurity codes of conduct for scientists, therefore, reflects a common aspiration of the international scientific community to responsibly conduct biological research activities.

We remain convinced having developed such a code in our own domestic context that a voluntary model developed under the BWC would be an important contribution to raising biosafety and biosecurity awareness and enhancing ethical self-discipline among biological researchers. We believe that this effort will add value to the goals of the BWC regime and encourage all stakeholders to voluntarily adopt the guidelines as appropriate to their own context.

We are grateful to those states parties which have co-sponsored or supported the proposal and invite others to support it. It is our sincere hope that the Ninth Review Conference would endorse the guidelines and task the subsequent intercessional process to exchange information experiences and good practices on the dissemination and adoption of these guidelines.

Mr. Chairman,

Reviewing the relevant science and technology related developments also remains important in our efforts to keep the BWC relevant and up to date. Addressing such matters necessitates continued engagement with the scientific, medical, commercial and educational communities under a States Parties-led, inclusive and representative mechanism.

The expert-level deliberations held during this Inter-Sessional Programme have been valuable for identifying the emerging areas of commonalities. My delegation hopes that the work carried out in MX-2 will be duly taken note of and would serve as a useful guide for the States Parties' consideration at the 9th Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.
