



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations
Geneva**

**Statement by Pakistan at
the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Strengthening of the Convention,
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)
“Measures on confidence-building and transparency”
04 December 2023**

Mr Chair,

We would like to reiterate the organic and integrated nature of our Working Group and its seven topics. As the distinguished Ambassador of Italy and our President of the 9th RevCon has eloquently remarked that we have to avoid working in silos or an unhelpful compartmentalization of our topics.

With this perspective in background, we approach the topic of Confidence Building and Transparency.

Pakistan views the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) as a useful tool for increasing transparency and building trust and confidence among States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. CBMs are what they are: measures to build confidence or to help reduce occurrence of ambiguities as the 2nd Review Conference had aspired it to be. This purpose of CBMs has also been reflected in multiple declarations of Review Conferences of BWC.

The CBMs, as a voluntary tool, can also contribute towards effective implementation of the Convention and indirectly promote compliance. However, CBMs itself cannot be used as a tool for assessing compliance by States Parties.

While the ISU can be mandated to study general or collective trends from the submissions for the benefit of States Parties, these CBMs have never been meant to be treated as declarations, which are usually an essential component of a legally binding verification regime.

A multilaterally negotiated, legally binding mechanism with verification provisions remains the best pathway for assessing compliance with the Convention.

Mr Chair,

Pakistan had submitted CBMs first time in 2012 and has been submitting regularly since 2019.

Pakistan believes that simplified reporting procedures and continued assistance, as was highlighted by the ISU in its presentation this morning, will enhance participation of all States Parties in the CBMs. With a view to promoting increased participation of States and increasing its effectiveness, the CBMs may remain under regular review as has been the practice in Review Conferences.

In this context, Pakistan stands ready to work with other States Parties to develop specific recommendations.

Mr Chair,

At the end, I would like to join others in commending the professional role of the ISU, which has provided significant support on CBMs despite the modest resources at its disposal.

I thank you.