



Permanent Mission of Italy to the
Conference on Disarmament

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Leonardo Bencini,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament to
the Sixth Session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the
Biological Weapons Convention**

Geneva, August 2025

Thank you, Chair.

Italy recognizes effective national implementation as a key element also in compliance within we call a composite compliance and verification system. In fact, full correct implementation equals compliance. Our approach to national implementation is based on a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to ensure that all BWC provisions are fully integrated into national law.

This is also based on an interagency cooperation, our integrated model supporting exchange of information and effective response capabilities to any potential biological threat.

We engage in efforts to enhance awareness of the Convention across relevant national stakeholders, including academic institutions, industry, and research organizations, recognizing that cooperation with the life sciences community is absolutely key to implementation.

We support capacity-building programs and technical assistance, especially to the benefit of developing countries, to strengthen their abilities in national implementation, disease surveillance, and emergency preparedness. Such cooperation also contributes to Article X.

Looking at Section E of your draft recommendations, we generally support it. As mentioned yesterday, national implementation can be considered a holistic, ongoing, multi-sector process. In particular, we appreciate in para 32 the encouragement to develop and implement biological risks management standards and codes of conduct. We underlined the relevance of codes of conduct also in relation to the section dedicated to scientific and technological development. In para 33, we support the promotion of national ownership, as mentioned by some delegations. However, concerning national contact points, they should not duplicate what we have already in place for instance with CBMs. We think it is best to have one national contact point for all aspects of the Convention's implementation. In para 35 we would like to keep the reference to activities on awareness raising, education and training with different stakeholders as these activities foster international cooperation and assistance at international level.

In the last para of the section, p. 36, we would recommend keeping the current text although it is a little vague. But we have heard a lot in these days about the extraordinary work, and I know that first hand, the ISU is conducting in many States Parties in support of national implementation so we want this body to be provided with the necessary resources. Strengthening the Convention also goes through strengthening the ISU.

Finally, we would like to thank the United States and India for presenting some elements of their working paper on the role of national implementation to prevent the acquisition, development or use of biological weapons and for sharing their valuable experiences in this regard.

Thank you, Chair.