

Meeting of the States Parties to the BTWC
Statement by Norway

Norway alligned itself with the EU in supporting your outlined elements for a Code of Conduct. Your approach forms an excellent basis to reach consensus.

It is essential to have a tangible outcome from the working program adopted in 2002. While the discussions over the last two years have been both interesting and useful, we have not yet been able to identify new and concrete measures on how to strengthen the BTWC. A Code of Conduct of for scientists, based on the norm set by the Convention, would indeed be such a measure.

We are approaching the end of this program of work and we are to embark on the preparations for the Review Conference next year. In this process we should be ambitious, but also realistic. We need progress, given the continued and enhanced threat by bioterrorism and challenges posed by advances in biotechnology.

We mst strengthen the BTWC. We must involve all stakeholders in our deliberations. We must build on experiences gained over the last ten years, while aiming for do-able and feasible options. That would include measures to ensure full compliance to the BTWC. That would also include measures to further enhance the effectiveness of Confidence Building Measures.