

Geneva, 19 November - 7 December 2001

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Working paper submitted by China**

1. The Conference emphasizes the importance of article 1 and reiterates the good will and determination of States parties to abide strictly by the provisions of the article, namely, never in any circumstances to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain microbiological or other biological agents or toxins, whatever their origin or method of production, of any type and in any quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, or any weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use agents or toxins of this kind for hostile purposes or in armed conflicts.
2. The Conference reiterates that the use by States parties of microbiological or other biological agents or toxins, under any circumstances and in any manner inconsistent with prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, constitutes a violation of the Convention.
3. The Conference is aware that the rapid advances of science and technology in such areas as microbiology, biotechnology, molecular biology, genetic engineering and gene research, while bringing great benefits to humankind, may also be used for purposes contrary to the objects and goals of the Convention and that the undertaking given by States parties in article 1 of the Convention applies fully to all present and future developments of science.
4. The Conference once again stresses the importance of full and strict compliance with this article by all States parties, irrespective of their technological level and stage of development, and the need to refrain from any activities conducted on any pretext or in any manner inconsistent with or in contravention of the original purpose of the Convention, so as to ensure respect for both the letter and the substance of the Convention.

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