

**BTWC REVIEW CONFERENCE: REMARKS ON ARTICLE X BY HE
AMBASSADOR JOHN DUNCAN, UNITED KINGDOM AMBASSADOR
FOR MULTILATERAL ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT, 22
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Mr Chairman

I would like to make a few remarks on Article X. The European Union has explained the extensive programme of cooperation currently underway under this Article. However, I would like to pick up the point made a few moments ago by my esteemed Ukrainian colleague, who as a professional scientist spoke with commendable authority on the link between Article X, Article IV and the Intersessional Work Programme.

Mr Chairman

As several colleagues have remarked, the world has moved on from the 1970s when the BTWC was negotiated. In current circumstances, export control legislation and government policy are not the main obstacles to increased cooperation and technology transfer under Article X. Indeed, as has been shown there is a wide degree of government sponsored activity. The real issues which act to constrain transfer export control legislation or government policy and cooperation are such issues as intellectual property rights and other largely commercial issues.

It is therefore important to recognise that many of the measures envisaged under the Intersessional Work Programme are a way to overcome such obstacles by increasing confidence on the part of the suppliers of technology that the recipients will in practice be able to adequately safeguard the technology that is transferred to them, not simply from the risk that this technology will be misused (which nonetheless remains important and is covered by Article IV), but also that the technology will be adequately protected from accident, piracy and similar commercial and safety concerns.

Mr Chairman

UK economic prosperity and continued development is dependent on free movement of goods and information; it is not in UK interests to restrict trade unnecessarily and UK does not do so.

UK has a large scientific base, including in the life sciences and in biotechnology, that trades internationally. A high number of UK nationals work in other countries and nationals from other countries work in, or are being educated at, UK universities, industry, and in the sciences.

Consequently, when we look at Article X we need to do so in the context of Article IV, ie is there an adequate legislative framework to prevent misuse and also the intersessional work which aims to reinforce and improve the prospect for cooperation and technology transfer in the globalised world in which we live.

If one wanted a metaphor, one could consider that Article X is the lintel of cooperation supported by two pillars, Article IV and the Intersessional Work. In order for the lintel to bear the load of extensive cooperation it relies on the solid support from both pillars to be effective.