I would like to thank the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for his report. We take note of the report of the SAB. I would like to recall two important issues. According to paragraph 21(h) of Article VIII, this is the Conference to ‘review scientific and technological developments that could affect the operation of this Convention and, in this context,’ and indeed, the SAB is there ‘to render specialised advice in areas of science and technology relevant to this Convention, to the Conference, the Executive Council or States Parties.’ So we would like to emphasise that the discussion of the SAB is not for direct application in the work of the Organisation or the work of the Secretariat, there are divergent views given on scientific and technical issues, even among the members of the Board and of course experts outside of the Board. While we are thankful for their work, we believe that those issues raised in the report and discussions of the SAB should be discussed in the policy-making organs of the OPCW.

I thank you.