**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

# STATEMENT AT THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

# TO THE BIOLOGJICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Geneva, 09-13 December 2013

Mr. President,

First af all, I would like to join the previous speakers in extending our congratulations to you upon your appointment as the President of the Conference and to assure you on our support during your mandate.

I should also emphasize that the synthesis of consideration, lessons and recommendations as the result of the discussions at the Meetings of Experts last August is highly appreciated by our delegation.

*As Albania aligns itself with the EU statement delivered this morning,* let me also share with you on behalf of my Government the issues that Albania considers having a relevant importance in complying with the Biological Weapons Convention obligations.

We recognize that the important decisions adopted by the Seventh Review Conference have further consolidated the international efforts to strengthen and reinforce the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties.

The Government of the Republic of Albania as a UN member has continuously supported international efforts for the establishment of a nonproliferation regime in all countries and has taken necessary steps for the peaceful use of nuclear, chemical and biological materials and legislative measures in order to prevent the proliferation of WMD.

The Republic of Albania attaches great importance to arms control disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and also to export control regimes as means to prevent such proliferation. With a view to fulfilling the provisions of international non-proliferation instruments and arrangements to which Albania is party, an enhanced system of export controls is implemented in Albania. Albania considers export control as an important element of its national security.

Let me underline that the Albanian national system of export control of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods has been regulated in accordance with the European Union, OSCE and the United Nations standards, including the

obligations under UNSC Resolution 1540 and other UN resolutions in the field disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

Regarding the BTWC, Albania has become a party of the Biological Weapons Convention, on 3 June 1992. Albania does not possess, produce, stockpile or transfer biological weapons or related devices.

During these years Albania has fulfilled all its obligations which derive from the BTWC. Albania has adopted the necessary national legislation in accordance with the BTWC requirements.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC) became a part of the legal system of Albania by the Law nr. 7532 date. 11.12.1991.

The basic requirements BTWC have been continuously incorporated into the Albanian legal system since the mid-1990s. Subsequently, the requirements arising from other relevant international conventions such as UNSCR 1540 also have been incorporated

Recalling the Article X of the BTWC which encourages the further development of scientific discoveries for prevention of disease, we are convinced that the international cooperation and the universalization of the convention are the major pillars of a global approach in the process of the implementation of BTWC.

Albania also supports the efforts to improve the existing formats of the Confidence Building Measures and recognize their contribution in assuring the effective transparency in the implementation of the Convention.

In conclusion, the Government of Albania is determined to continue to advocate and join its voice to other State Parties aiming to reach the universalization of the Convention and also encourage its timely and full implementation in order to strengthen the protection of civilians and prevent more human suffering.

Thank you for your attention!

ANNEX

**Main legal regulations**

a) Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania (No. 7895 (27 January 1995), amended by Law No. 8204 (10 April 1997), amended by Law No. 8279 (date 15 January 1998), amended by Law No. 8733(24 January 2001))
b) For the organization and functioning of the police of the municipality and commune (No. 8224, 15 May 1997)
c) Customs Code (No. 8449, 27 January 1999)
d) Law on Veterinary Service and Inspectorate (No. 9308, 4 November 2004), and
e) Law on Environmental Protection (No. 7664, dated 21 January 1993)

Albanian Constitution of 21 October 1998 (English) –Article 122

- National Implementation and Domestic Regulations in Albania (English) – Criminal Code, No. 7895 of 27 January 1995, Articles 202, 232, 234 and 281

- National Implementation and Domestic Regulations in Albania (English) – Criminal Code, No. 7895 of 27 January 1995, Article 232

- Order of Council of Ministers No. 366 of 5 October 1991 "For the creation of Import-Export Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence". The Ministry of Defence controls the export-import of military goods and technology through MEICO (Military Export Import Company), a public enterprise under the Albanian Ministry of Defence in compliance with the respective decisions of the Albanian

- Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, No. 7895, 27 January 1995, Article 234 on producing military weapons. Provides penalties for the production, storage, transportation of military, chemical, biological, nuclear weapons which have poisonous or explosive base, with the intent of committing acts of terrorism from 5 to 15 years of imprisonment.

- Penal Code of the Albanian Republic Law No. 7895, 27 January 1995, Article 202, The transportation and disposal of toxic and radioactive waste is sentenced up to 5 years in prison. When this act causes damage to peoples' lives it is sentenced up to 15 years in prison.

- Penal Code of the Republic of Albania, No. 7895, 27 January 1995, Article 232 on Delivering dangerous substances Delivery in the air, land or water of substances harmful to the life and health of people and animals, with the intent of seriously disturbing public order and instilling uncertainty to the public is sentenced from 10-20 years imprisonment.

- Penal Code of the Republic of Albania, No. 7895, 27 January 1995, Article 281 on Breach of rules on poisonous substances, on Breach of rules on poisonous substances A breach of the rules on the keeping, manufacturing, storing, using, transporting, and selling poisonous substances with strong effect will be punished with a fine or up to 2 years imprisonment. When the act leads to death, serious harm to the health of people or other serious material consequences, it is sentenced with a fine or up to 10 years imprisonment.