Mr. President

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like, on behalf of the delegation of Mozambique to express our congratulations to you Ambassador Leonardo Bencini, on your election as the President of the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention.

We commend you Mr. President, the members of the board, and the Secretariat of the Convention, for the hard work carried out in preparing this Review Conference. We also commend you for the excellent manner that you are conducting this Conference and we assure you our support.

We extend warm congratulations to our sister country Namibia for the submission of its instrument of accession to the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention.
Mozambique attaches particular importance to this Conference, as it is an opportunity to review the operation and implementation of the articles of the convention. In this regard, we appeal all States Parties to participate in the negotiations in a constructive manner so that the review can achieve positive results.

Mr. President;

Mozambique acceded to the Convention on Toxin and Biological Weapons in 2011, during the Seventh Review Conference of the Convention.

Universal adherence to and strengthening of the Convention, contributes significantly to advances in the field of disarmament, thus ensuring international peace and security.

Mozambique recognizes the importance of the convention for the security and welfare of humanity, and has therefore committed itself to the implementation of the various provisions through the national promotion of confidence building measures. As an example, the country has started discussing the proposal to create a specific Office that will coordinate the activities of relevant sectors in the implementation and fulfilment of the obligations of the convention.

Mr. President;
For Mozambique, the risk of biological attack is a challenge to national security, especially now that the country is facing a war against terrorist attacks in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, which requires the government to take maximum control, since terrorists can also use biological weapons as a war tool in their terrorist actions.

In this regard, Mozambique reiterates the importance of international cooperation and assistance as well as, the exchanges in toxic biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes without any discrimination, in conformity with the convention.

Mr. President,

To conclude, I would like to urge all States Parties to use this conference and make it a unique opportunity to improve global biological security and focus the deserved and legitimate attention on the need to deploy multilateral efforts to achieve biosecurity.

I also express the gratitude of the Government of Mozambique to the Convention Implementation Support Unit, which has tirelessly assisted member states in the implementation of the Convention.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.