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STATEMENT

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THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
AT THE 7th REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Geneva, 6 December 2011

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me on the behalf of the Azerbaijani delegation to congratulate you on your election as president of this 7th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, which isn't an easy task.

The Biological Weapons Convention is the turning point of the world community's effort in the field of arms control and disarmament as a reply to ongoing threat from WMD. The Republic of Azerbaijan attached the great importance to combat the proliferation of WMD, including biological weapons, all related components and technologies, as well as its means of delivery. We have a very solid cooperation with U.S. in combating the proliferation of biological weapons, its components, pathogens and all related expertise and technologies within the Biological Threat Reduction Program. This program has enabled us to renovate and upgrade a number of existing laboratories and to train skilled personnel, inter alia, to build up our national scientific and research capabilities in this regard.

To date, we have been working out to adopt relevant national legislation which will incorporate relevant measures derived from the Convention. We would like to thank the Disarmament office as well as the EU and "Vertic" for providing the assistance on the national implementation of the Convention as well as preparation of CBM (2 days seminar for national authorities hosted in Baku 10-11 November 2012).

Mr. President,

The review conference enables us to revise the convention compatibility with the current time and new demands as well as setting the new goals for achieving the improvements. We would like to highlight some points which have particular importance not only for us but, also may have for some other member states of the convention. Conducting CBMs is an important dimension of the implementation of Convention by state parties as it plays the crucial role in the success of the BTWC itself. In this regard, we stand ready to join the discussions on the improvement of the methods of submission of CMBs with the view of facilitation on time submission, taking into account current technical capabilities.

Secondly in our view, ensuring the full implementation of BTWC can not be achieved in light of existing protracted conflicts which have created grey zones in uncontrolled and occupied territories. These uncontrolled territories undoubtedly pose a great menace to international peace and security as it can be used as a polygon for any kind of illegal activities, including development, production, storage and transfer of BWMD, related components and technologies as well as its means of delivery.

Let me express our hope that this Review Conference will not only revisit the measures have been taken in implementing the provision of the convention but also will discuss the measures to strengthen and improve its implementation.

Thank you, Mr. President.