



**Seventh Review Conference
of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention
General statement by DENMARK
Geneva, 5th December 2011**

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Mr. President,

Since this is the first time Denmark takes the floor, on behalf of the Danish Government, let me congratulate you on your election as President of this Review Conference and ensure you of my delegation's full support throughout the next three weeks. Let me also express our appreciation for the work the Implementation Support Unit is carrying out.

Mr. President,

Firstly, I would like to align myself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union. Denmark considers building confidence in compliance, supporting national implementation and promoting universalization of the BTWC as overall priorities for this Review Conference. Denmark calls upon all States not party to the BTWC to adhere to it without further delay. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mozambique and Burundi for joining the Convention.

Secondly, we should use this Review Conference as a momentum to reaffirm the BTWC as one of the fundamental pillars of the international community's efforts to counter weapons of mass destruction and further strengthen it in this regard. Developments in biotechnology are taking place at a rapid pace. This is mostly a positive development. However, these rapid changes also entail an increased risk of misuse of biotechnology with harmful consequences. Denmark is of the opinion that it is essential that the BTWC is updated to respond to the challenges relating to potential misuse of biotechnological developments, particularly when it comes to changes being made in relation to synthetic biology. An essential focus of this conference should be ensuring that the BTWC is continuously up-to date with new technological developments, so

that it can effectively contribute to the challenge of reducing the threat from biological weapons.

Mr. President,

Thirdly, Denmark is fully committed to the implementation of Article X, and shares the view that States Parties should work towards the exchange of equipment, material, and scientific and technological information for the use of biological materials for peaceful purposes. In connection with Article X Denmark furthermore agrees that the Convention should be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering economic and technological developments among States Parties as well as international cooperation. However, taking into account the dual-use problem of certain biological materials and know-how, Denmark is also of the opinion that biosecurity is an essential element that should be considered whenever biological materials, know-how and technology is transferred within and among states.

Fourthly,

The Confidence Building Measures under the BTWC and the mandatory data to be reported to the UN under Security Council Resolution 1540 are in many ways closely related. Henceforth Denmark considers it necessary to coordinate information reported to the 1540-Committee and the CBMs under BTWC.

Mr. President,

Lastly, in Denmark's view, initiatives in support of the UN Secretary General's mechanism for investigation of alleged use of biological and toxin weapons will contribute indirectly to strengthen the BTWC. In this light, Denmark has recently put forward to UNODA an offer to contribute to the Secretary-General's mechanism a team of specialists with expertise in biological field investigation and bio-security, as well as an offer to conduct training of relevance to the mechanism.

I thank you, Mr. President.