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Statement by H.E Mr. Mohammed Reza Sajjadi

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of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before the

Seventh Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the  
Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological  
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC)

7 December. 2011

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In the Name of God, The Compassionate, The Merciful

Mr. President,

It is a great pleasure for my delegation to congratulate you on your election as the President of this Conference. I also congratulate the distinguished Members of the Bureau. The Islamic Republic of Iran associates itself with the Statement made by H.E. Rodolfo Benitez, the distinguished Ambassador of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties.

We are proud to be among the first 20 governments that signed and then ratified this very first international disarmament treaty. The Islamic Republic of Iran as a victim of chemical weapons and as an active State Party to all international disarmament instruments has always renounced the development, production, acquisition and stockpiling of any weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) including biological and toxin weapons. No State Party should have any offensive bio defense programs. It is a clear violation of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the only sustainable way for regime building in the BWC is through the legally binding instrument to comprehensively strengthen the Convention therefore the multilateral negotiations should be resumed on a legally binding instrument to comprehensively strengthen the convention including in the area of international cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Piecemeal solutions or fragmented proposals are not an appropriate option. Thanks to the support of the States Parties, the agenda adopted for this Review Conference is providing ample opportunity for the Review Conference to discuss fully this very important issue and to explore ways and means to respond to the wish of international community on early conclusion of such an instrument.

The Universality of the Convention is of high importance to Islamic Republic of Iran. We welcome the accession of Mozambique and Burundi to the Convention. We firmly believe that their accession would contribute to the universality of the Convention. We are of the view that this conference should call upon all non-parties in particular Israel to accede to the Convention without delay. We support the adoption of an action plan with targeted timelines for ensuring the universality of the Convention. We are also of the firm belief that pending their accession, States Parties shall refrain from any transfer of biological agents, toxins, equipment, materials, technology to the non-parties.

Mr. President,

The full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X, as one of the main pillars of the Convention, is essential to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention. For many years States Parties in particular developing countries have suffered from the systematic denial of the inalienable right of States Parties to exchange equipment, materials, technology for the use of the biological agents and toxin for peaceful purposes. This Review Conference should address these unjustified restrictions posed against States Parties in contravention with the provisions

of the Convention. We believe that there is an urgent need for establishment of a mechanism on Article X.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports NAM and other states' proposal on the establishment of a solid mechanism for the implementation of Article X. In this vein, we also request the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference to adopt specific measure for submission of cases of transfer denials by States Parties to ISU. The ISU should be mandated to prepare a report on denials to CSP for its consideration.

Inter-Sessional process were set to discuss and promote common understandings among the States Parties on a certain issues related to the implementation of the Convention. We believe that we should keep continuity in the next Intersessional process and not alter it radically. Embarking unrealistic approaches would only complicate the issue and adversely affect the goal. Furthermore, the decision making is the prerogative of the Review Conference and should not be delegated to the Inter-Sessional Process.

The Inter-Sessional process shall be directed towards the strengthening of the Convention in its entirety. It shall not lead to the selective implementation of the Convention. Emphasizing on this point that the Inter-Sessional periods process are a forum for reaching common understanding on the implementation of the Convention, We believe that the overlooked Articles of the Convention like Article X and article VII shall be the core issues on this process. We reiterate that, as it was agreed in the fifth and sixth review Conferences, the results and reports of all the meetings are reached by the consensus. The practice of consensus has played an important role in promoting common understanding among States Parties in the Inter-Sessional Periods. This conference shall continue this practice and recommend it to the inter-sessional meetings.

The CBMs as a voluntary measure would lead to enhance the confidence among States Parties. We have also participated in this process. However, we do share the view that the CBMs shall not constitute a mechanism for verification of compliance. It should not impose additional burden on States Parties. Consideration of a new CBM form on the implementation of article X needs to be addressed by this conference.

In addressing the needs for institutional support for states parties in implementing the Convention provisions and Review Conferences decisions, The Sixth review Conference established the ISU with specific mandate. While our efforts to conclude a comprehensive legally binding protocol were failed, cautious should be exercised not to substitute ISU with an organization with a comprehensive mandate to implement the Convention. Any decision with regard to the continuation of the ISU and its possible mandate should be commensurate with the specific decisions that we will take in this Conference for strengthening the Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President.