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**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. DATUK OTHMAN HASHIM  
HEAD OF MALAYSIAN DELEGATION  
AT THE SEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF  
THE STATES PARTIES TO  
THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)  
5 – 22 DECEMBER 2011  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Mr. President,

At the outset, on behalf of the Malaysian delegation, allow me to join other delegations in congratulating you, on your assumption as the President of the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) by acclamation. We are confident that given your skills, knowledge and experience, you will be able to steer our work to achieve the objective of this Review Conference. You can be rest assured that Malaysia will give its full support and stands ready to engage constructively with you and other States Parties in ensuring the successful outcome of this Meeting.

2. Malaysia fully associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by the delegation of Cuba on behalf of the Group of the Non-Alligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC.

Mr. President,

3. Five years have passed. Since the last Review Conference was held, we have witnessed vast advancement in science and technology related to bio-sciences and it

is increasingly publicly accessible through the medium of modern information technology. In line with this, Malaysia strongly believes that biological and toxins weapons continue to pose threat to the international community. We are concerned on the potential threat for these biological agents and toxins being used as instrument of terror and warfare.

4. Malaysia supports the efforts by the international community to press for universal adherence to the BWC and compliance with its provisions. Nonetheless, regardless of the high possibility for misuse of these beneficial science, the establishment of verification mechanism for the Convention is idled. We believe much more could be done to strengthen the effective implementation of the Convention and Malaysia upholds the view that the only way to strengthen the Convention is through multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol and universal adherence to the Convention. Let's put back together what we have stalled in 2001 and take concrete steps in this regard.

5. In line with Article IV of the Convention, Malaysia is currently finalising our Biological Weapons Bill which will be part of Malaysia's legislative framework to ensure effective implementation of the BWC in Malaysia. Malaysia is pleased with the progress that has been made in finalising the Bill and we anticipate that the Bill will be able to be tabled in the Malaysian Parliament soon.

Mr. President,

6. Malaysia is committed to adhere and implement its obligations under the Convention. In particular, Malaysia undertakes to facilitate and will participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes as provided under Article X of the Convention.

7. In this regard, I am pleased to take this opportunity to announce that Malaysia has organised the International Congress and Exhibition on Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biodefence (BioSSD Congress) from 18 until 20 July 2011 in Kuala Lumpur. The BioSSD Congress has successfully garnered international support and promoted

regional collaboration to prevent biocrime through safe working practices and biosecurity. In conjunction with future assistance and cooperation, Malaysia is of the view that we should utilise of the advancement of information technology by setting-up an electronic database with the aim to increase international cooperation while focusing on the establishment of a multilaterally negotiated Guideline on transfer of biological agents, toxins and relevant equipments, materials and technology at the same time. In this regard, Malaysia fully supports the proposals made by the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the BWC in its Working Paper on the Plan of Action to establish a mechanism to promote effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X of the Convention.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia has no doubt that the Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) is a useful tool in enhancing transparency and building confidence among States Parties. As a State Party to the Convention, Malaysia continues to fully adhere its commitment to the Convention, including the submission of CBMs. In this context, Malaysia commends the States Parties which have been submitting their CBMs annually and calls for other States Parties to do so. Malaysia hopes that this Review Conference will be able to come out with new ideas to increase submission of CBMs by States Parties. We support proposals to amend the CBMs in ensuring its practicality while at the same time increase its simplicity to ease the reporting burden on States Parties.

Mr. President,

9. Malaysia believes that what all of us have undergone and achieved during the inter-sessional period since the last Review Conference was useful. Nonetheless, there are still some rooms for improvement. In addition, the biological field has become more dynamic with many emerging issues such as synthesised genome and as such it is unfeasible to pre-determine topics on science and technology which are relevant to the Convention for our discussion over the next five years.

10. Therefore, Malaysia is really hopeful that this Review Conference shall come out with workable and practical solutions to overcome the shortcomings that have occurred during the past inter-sessional period. In line with the emerging risk in dual use research and development, Malaysia believes that the future inter-sessional work programme should pay close attention to the development of science and technology and encompass of annual and systematic review on this issue for the benefit of our community. Malaysia will work closely with States Parties during this Review Conference to discuss on an inter-sessional work programme beyond 2011 that promotes concrete and specific action by States Parties to strengthen implementation of the Convention.

Mr. President,

11. The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) has been a success by any measure since its creation during the Sixth Review Conference in 2006. Malaysia recognises the important role played by the ISU and supports its continued existence to support to the work of the Convention. Nevertheless, in expanding the mandate of the ISU, Malaysia believes that the ISU needs to be provided with the necessary resources in proportion to its future mandated workload. We support the Group of Non-Aligned Movement's proposal for an equitable geographical representation for the ISU while at the same time maintain its neutrality.

Mr. President,

12. Before I conclude, allow me to reiterate Malaysia's full support to the work of the Convention and Malaysia's commitment to continue to participate actively and contribute meaningfully to the Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you.