

**Philippine Statement**  
**7th BWC RevCon, 5-22 December 2011**  
**Minister Jesus S. Domingo**

Mr. President, on behalf of the Philippine Delegation, I wish to convey our most heartfelt congratulations on your well-deserved election as President of the BWC's 7th Review Conference, and we greatly appreciate your extensive preparations and consultations over the past months. Under your guiding philosophy of "Ambitious Realism" please be assured of the Philippine delegation's full support to your Presidency, and its desire for a successful outcome for the RevCon.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Rodolfo Reyes Rodriguez, and we thank Cuba for its hard work in coordinating the Movement in preparation for the RevCon.

We also wish to thank our BWC stakeholders: fellow states-parties, the BWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU), the academic and scientific community and individual experts and advocates for their efforts in preparing for our Conference. The numerous background and working papers submitted have indeed given us ample food for thought. The Beijing, Montreux, Berlin, Clingendael, and Geneva Workshops and Seminars have been particularly helpful opportunities for us to exchange views and ideas on the road to the RevCon. The Philippines is honored to have had the opportunity to host the East Asia-Pacific BWC Conference Week held earlier this year in Manila, co-organized with Australia, the European Union, the United States, the UNODA and VERTIC.

The Philippines wishes to express its appreciation for the progress we have made since the 6th RevCon, including, inter alia, the useful and constructive intercessional process, the activation of the ISU, advances in biological science and technology, developments in universalization and national implementation, and regional and bilateral cooperation. Nevertheless, a number of challenges remain, as outlined in the NAM statement and as expressed by a number of fellow delegations.

My delegation also would like to highlight the positive developments in advancing biological science, safety and security cooperation in our region. The East Asia-Pacific BWC Conference Week held in Manila this year, was attended by members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, China, the European Union, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United States, showcased the progress we have made in inter-regional and bilateral cooperation. The conference dealt with BWC universalization and national implementation, legislative, administrative and enforcement measures and challenges, the CBM process, disease surveillance and bioterrorism prevention, dual-use science and technology. It also examined the BWC intersessional process, the ISU and assistance and cooperation under BWC Articles VII and X. The Conference was able to bring together the various sectors engaged in BWC-related endeavors – including representatives from foreign affairs, defense, security, health, science and technology agencies. It was found that it is necessary to further enhance synergies between and among such sectors within countries.

The Ministers of the ASEAN Regional Forum, in their 2011 Meeting, reaffirmed their commitment to the BWC and called on States Parties to work constructively towards strengthening the regime at the RevCon. The Ministers also re-emphasized the importance of preserving the region of Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the SEANWFZ Treaty. The Philippines, Australia and the United States have co-hosted a series of ARF workshops on biothreat and biorisk management over the past three years in Manila.

Thus, the Philippines is of the view that regional and sub-regional cooperation is a vital element and dynamic for the advancement of the goals and objectives of the BWC, and should be accorded due attention in our deliberations during our RevCon.

The Philippines would also like to express its gratitude to those states and organizations which have supported the various dimensions of our national implementation efforts, such as VERTIC for national legislation, the EU Joint Action for CBM reporting, the US Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) for our capacity building, and support programs from Australia and Japan, and of course the ISU. We would also like to take this opportunity to call for sustained and enhanced support to our national implementation efforts, and to encourage further South-South and Triangular cooperation.

Mr. President, the Philippine delegation reiterates its full support to you and your bureau, and dedicates itself to the successful outcome of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference.