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Statement by

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At

**The Seventh Review Conference of the States parties
To the Biological Weapons Convention**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of this important meeting of the Seventh Review Conference of the State Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). I am confident that your rich diplomatic experience and distinguished leadership will contribute greatly to a successful conclusion of this meeting. My congratulations also go to the other Bureau members on their election and to the Secretary-General of the Conference. Let me assure you, Mr. President and members of the bureau, of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the course of our deliberations.

Since it came into effect in 1975, BWC has remained the fundamental legal and normative foundation for our collective endeavors to prevent and prohibit the use of biological and toxic weapons. However, advances in biotechnology and life sciences and their widespread availability have increased the possibility that proliferators may take advantage of the scientific developments. In light of the potential threats posed by these new developments, the BWC needs to be reinforced if it is to adequately address these new challenges while still enabling us to fully harvest the benefits of biotechnology for peaceful purposes.

Mr. President,

Against this backdrop, my delegation attaches particular importance to this Review Conference. Following the success of the 6th Review Conference in 2006, this year's Review Conference provides us with a unique and excellent opportunity not only to assess how the Convention in its entirety has been operating for the last five years, but also to generate the political will necessary to strengthen the Convention.

Through a comprehensive article-by-article review of the Convention, we should reaffirm and further elaborate upon our current understanding of the provisions of the Convention in light of new scientific and technological developments. Furthermore, we should identify areas in which additional work and cooperation among member states are needed, explore ways to ensure full implementation of the Convention, and discuss avenues to enhance its effectiveness.

In this regard, we view the vast array of working papers submitted by member states as an encouraging sign of the willingness of the States Parties to make this Review Conference a success.

Having said that, my delegation associates with JACKSNNZ's statement presented by the Canadian delegation and I will now briefly highlight my delegation's view on several issues regarding implementing and strengthening the Convention.

First, the Republic of Korea places high priority on national implementation of the Convention. We believe that it is our core obligation under the Convention to enact and effectively enforce appropriate national legislative measures in order to prohibit and prevent the development, production, acquisition, transfer, retention, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons. Penal legislation, tightened national export controls and regulations on bio-safety and bio-security are essential elements for enhancing national implementation mechanisms.

In addition, raising public awareness through education on the inherent dangers of biological weapons, as well as developing and promulgating a code of conduct for scientists would also be conducive to creating a favorable domestic environment for effective national implementation. To this end, the Republic of Korea has joined as co-sponsor for a working paper on possible approaches to education and awareness-raising among life scientist.

Second, the Korean delegation notes that biological science and technology is advancing rapidly and that the dual-use nature of biotechnology presents potential risks. This has rendered it increasingly difficult to make a clear distinction between the peaceful uses of biological materials as permitted in the BWC and the prohibited use for military purposes.

We indeed face a greater risk that potential proliferators may take advantage of such loopholes; furthermore, the risk that terrorists may acquire biological materials adds a new dimension to such threats. It necessitates the BWC to keep abreast of these developments to effectively counter the new emerging threats. Considering this, the five-yearly review seems to be insufficient to meet the challenge.

Third, the inter-sessional process has created a positive momentum that can and should be carried forward. And the success of the previous inter-sessional meetings since 2007 has well demonstrated the will of the international community to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. Indeed, it would be even more constructive for the inter-sessional work to be conducted on a more regular, formal and systematic basis. Proceeding in this way would ensure greater continuity and coherence between the Review Conferences.

Last but not least, the Korean delegation shares the opinion that the establishment of the ISU (Implementation Support Unit) is one of the success stories of the 6th Review Conference. I believe it is the common observation that ISU has made great contributions to the Convention and that consensus has been reached on preserving this worthy tool. In this context, we are in favor of a measured enhancement to its mandate.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea would like to reconfirm its unwavering commitment to the letter and spirit of the Convention to implement its obligations and duties. My delegation looks forward to continuing the momentum created at the 6th Review Conference and accelerated by the subsequent success of the inter-sessional work programs for this Review Conference.

Let me conclude my statement by expressing my sincere hope that we will be able to produce meaningful and tangible outcomes at this Review Conference with flexibility and openness.

Thank you, President. /end/