



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
to the United Nations Office in Geneva  
and the International Organizations in Switzerland

10 P.M

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. MRS MARIA CIOBANU  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA  
AT THE SEVENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE  
OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
5 DECEMBER 2011**

**Mr. President**

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as President of the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.

On the occasion of your appointment as President-designate of the Seventh Review Conference you have reminded us all that an **ambitious realism** will be the guiding principle of the RevConf. You can be assured of my delegation's full support over the next three weeks in order to achieve the aims and objectives of this conference.

Romania associates itself with the statement which will be delivered by the European Union, later in the conference. Therefore, I would like to limit my statement to a few brief points of national relevance

**Mr. President,**

The spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons has been successfully limited by international arms control and disarmament agreements. But these treaties are not yet universal. Recent experience shows that, on their own, they cannot prevent determined proliferators from not complying with their international obligations.

It goes without saying that **BWC is one of the cornerstones** of disarmament and non proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction. It is the central pillar of the regime totally prohibiting biological and toxin weapons. The BWC stands alongside the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the chemical weapons convention in providing the basis for the global legal and political norm against the spread of weapons of mass destruction.. There is **no alternative** to this regime, but it is the one most in need of being **strengthened**, in order to prevent the misuse of science for purposes prohibited by the Convention.

Terrorism, globalization and the rapid developments in bio-science pose **new challenges** to all of us and render the Biological Weapons Convention particularly topical.

This 7th Review Conference is an **important and timely opportunity** to revisit the Convention, after the last complete review in 2006. In this respect, we have a **solid basis** for our deliberations, the good work done in the recent years, exchanging views and experiences on vital areas for BWC.



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**Mr. President,**

Romania continues to attach high priority to the **strengthening of the Convention** as the basis of our common efforts to prevent the proliferation of the biological and toxin weapons. I would like to underline that we strongly support further strengthening the **universality of the BWC membership**. But BWC universalization is not sufficient without an improvement of the process of its **implementation on regional and national levels**.

The **intersessional process** was an **important and productive** forum for multi-sector information exchange, coordination and cooperation. The agreed topics were directly relevant to States Parties' obligations under the BWC. It has brought altogether representatives of the states parties, public health, law enforcement, scientific and academic communities, private industry and intergovernmental organizations

Romania considers that the BWC **next intersessional period**, should provide States Parties with a **new opportunity** to continue the dialogue **as an essential point** for the success of the BWC. We must consider the follow process **as a tool** to address both existing and emerging challenges. We support a **result oriented inter-sessional process** which may build on elements already discussed in 2007-2011.

Romania remains convinced that **confidence building measures** have an **important role** to play in enhancing transparency with respect to States Parties' compliance with the Convention. We share the idea to improving the confidence-building measures and we do encourage all states parties to submit annual reports, as an **essential obligation** of the treaty. We are committed to working with other States Parties on **measures of strengthening the CBMs mechanism**.

We must continue to develop **preventive measures such as codes of conduct** for those involved in the life sciences. States Parties should continue in-depth discussions about the latest developments in science and technology that could affect the BWC. It is essential to build on what has been achieved during the current intersessional period. The significance and importance of this endeavor is rising in the light of the **rapid growth of life science** whose discoveries **may have dual use nature** and the danger of use of modified biological agents and toxins for hostile purposes.

**Mr. President,**

The role of the ISU, established in 2006, has been seen as very positive, a reality acknowledged by BWC states parties. Romania uses this opportunity to express once again its appreciation for ISU tireless efforts to increase the strengthening of the Convention. It is important that **ISU** should carry on its activity, beyond the Review Conference. Therefore, we do support **the prolongation of the ISU's mandate** for five year duration. In this context, we are open to any suggestions to improve the mandate and format of the ISU in the next inter-sessional period.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by assuring you and BWC member states parties that we stand ready to support the ongoing efforts to move forward toward a greater mutual security.

**Thank you Mr. President**