

STATEMENT
by the Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
at BTWC Seventh Review Conference

Mr. President

First of all, please allow me, Ambassador van den IJssel, to extend my sincere congratulations upon your assumption of the Presidency of the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC).

I am confident that your professionalism and wise leadership will help to identify new ideas and find proper approaches to the strengthening and improving of the BTWC regime, its effectiveness and implementation.

My delegation is ready to provide full support and cooperation for achieving this common goal.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

Our delegation fully supports the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and is in a position to join common efforts aimed at prevention and respond to challenges and threats of today's world. As one of the co-authors of the BTWC, Ukraine continuously stresses the important role of this indispensable instrument in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). We consider the Convention to be also a proper multilateral basis for developing international cooperation in the field of biosafety and biosecurity, including scientific and technological cluster. During the Review Conference we have an important task to sum up the past five-year period of operation of the Convention, with a view to ensure the steadfast implementation of all its provisions. It is also important to assess the latest scientific and technological developments related to the Convention, to take joint efforts aimed at raising awareness amongst scientists concerning the BTWC regime and possible risks that may appear from lack of knowledge.

Ukraine fully complies with its obligations under the Convention and on the regular basis submits comprehensive reports on the BTWC implementation within the framework of confidence-building measures, adopted by the Second and the Third Review Conferences of the States Parties. My country is also among those states which transmitted the 5-years review report on implementation of Convention's articles for the Seventh Review Conference.

Effective response in case of alleged use of a biological or toxin agents remains to be one of the priorities of the international community. Strengthening regional and international cooperation gains particular importance in terms of prevention of bio-threats as well as providing timely assistance to the affected countries.

On the other hand, capacity building measures on the national level aimed at strengthening the BTWC implementation and compliance are of paramount significance. In this context my delegation would like to reconfirm its interest in developing further cooperation in realization of a number of concrete project proposals in the field of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment of infectious diseases, submitted by Ukraine during the meeting of States-Parties in 2009 (the document BWC/MSP/2009/MX/WP.26).

Implementation of these projects is especially vital as an integral part of the complex program on preparation for UEFA European Football Championship to be held in Ukraine and Poland in 2012.

We believe it is necessary that the international community intensifies efforts and finds appropriate measures aimed at improving of the effectiveness and universality of the Convention. Taking into account rapid development of biotechnologies and growing capacities for bio-terrorism threat we do believe that further strengthening of the BTWC regime as a powerful tool of prevention of the proliferation of biological weapons is crucial today.

Universality of the Convention has always been and will remain one of the key prerequisites for its comprehensive implementation. Widespread adherence to the BTWC, ensuring confidence in compliance make an important contribution to preserving international peace and security as well as to global anti-terrorism efforts.

Mr. President,

Ukraine believes that rich experience of collaboration of States Parties between the Sixth and the Seventh Review Conferences has built a sound foundation for further strengthening of the Convention in the number of dimensions.

We share the idea that the Seventh Review Conference provides unique opportunity for us to give serious consideration and adopt vital decisions on the following aspects:

- improvement of the format of the existing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in order to increase number and quality of submissions by reducing their complexity and removing ambiguity from CBMs forms;
- defining concrete steps on universalization of the Convention;
- establishing a well-balanced format for 2012-2016 intersessional process;
- monitoring and analysis of the latest advances of biological sciences and technologies of common interest;
- establishing Action Plan on national implementation of BTWC under Article IV of the Convention;
- further development of international cooperation and technical assistance in the context of the implementation of Article X of the BTWC;
- strengthening the potential of the BTWC Implementation Support Unit.

Mr. President,

We consider the BTWC Seventh Review Conference as the right place in right time for sharing substantive ideas, elaborating concrete proposals and making sound decisions in order to achieve a maximum possible outcome as the balanced mix of ambition and realism.

In this context I would like to assure you, Mr. President and all the delegations, of my country's readiness to join broad efforts aimed at resolving existing problems and improving of the BTWC mechanism in all its aspects as a fundamental pillar of the WMD proliferation regime.

Thank you for your attention.