

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE STATEMENT BY ALGERIA  
TO THE 2007 MEETING OF STATES PARTIES  
OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Allow me, Sir, to first tell you the joy and satisfaction of seeing you continuing to chair with your usual skill these meetings of the Convention for the year 2007.

The Algerian delegation fully endorses the statement which was made by Cuba on behalf of the States of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States.

The proliferation of biological weapons and toxins always remains an ubiquitous threat to peace and international security. We are in a position to be worried about such a threat for many reasons. The science of biology, its application in very varied realms, is witnessing tremendous headway. We see that this technical progress, with the progress made in means of communication, make this threat all the more possible and I would like to add to this the phenomenon of international terrorism.

The concerns which the possibility of the use of this activity raise for forbidden ends are all the greater so that the Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons scrupulously respects these provisions and requires a regular review and a follow-up.

The results adopted by the Sixth Review Conference last year, that Algeria endorses, constitute a step forward for an effective application of the provisions of the Convention.

The round of annual meetings 2007-2011, decided upon at this opportunity, gave us the golden opportunity to better focus on and understand the topics which fall within it. Just as important is the setting up of the Implementation Support Unit, as well as the implementation of the Convention. I would like to play tribute to the members of this ISU for the efforts they made in accordance with the mandate entrusted in them.

Our satisfaction as regards the measures decided on in 2006 cannot however be complete unless these measures are part of a progressive procedure so as to reach a commitment on the consolidation of the normative setting set up by the Convention. This framework has to be up to the threat that we have to face up to. In fact, the scope of the Convention remains limited because it does not have a verification mechanism to comply with its provisions. We can only welcome the compromise and mutually understanding spirit which has characterized our work up until now. I hope that it will lead us in the near future to starting on a new stage, that is, reaching an agreement so as to finish with the work of the Convention through a Protocol so as to introduce all the necessary transparency and activities in the biological programmes of the States Parties.

The topics on our agenda, that is the national application and subregional and regional cooperation, are of particular importance. Indeed, its effective and efficient application of the provisions—all the provisions—of the Convention in a complete and well balanced manner without any discrimination must become a priority.

The fight against the proliferation of biological weapons requires of course first of all a national enforcement of the obligations undertaken and the commitments undertaken according to a context appropriate to each State Party. This should include the sanction of violations of the Convention as well as taking regulatory and institutional measures which are appropriate so as to prevent any transgression of the obligations undertaken. However, this objective cannot be reached without international cooperation to strengthen the national capacities in the field of implementation.

The discussions which we will hold this week will provide us with the opportunity to exchange information on the situation as regards the application by the States Parties on the best practices as well as the existing cooperation programmes. Indeed, this is a golden opportunity to engage in reflections so as to reach a joint procedure regarding these aspects of the Convention.

Algeria is seeing to the strict implementation of all the obligations springing from the Convention on Biological Weapons, just as all the mass destruction weapons. Here it has committed itself to never and in no circumstances develop, manufacture, stockpile, acquire in one way or another, or preserve microbiological agents or toxins, unless it is for legal and peaceful ends. Algeria is also prohibiting itself from transferring to anyone the agents and toxins which I talked about previously, or to encourage or help a State or any other entity to manufacture or acquire, said agents and toxins.

Algeria has not yet adopted the necessary criminal legislation so as to apply the Convention on Biological Weapons. However, the control of the use, the circulation of biological agents, are covered by the regulations in force regarding dangerous goods. Algeria has adopted a legislative and regulatory strict framework to control the borders furthermore.

The recommendations of the reflection group set up by the Head of the Government, aiming at the promulgation of legislative regulatory texts which are necessary for the implementation of the Convention, including penal provisions, also bear on the following measures:

First of all, to regulate rigorously the manufacture, importation, detention, marketing and the transfer of biological agents in Algeria;

Secondly, to monitor and only make accessible to the competent people the manufacturing and stockpiling places of biological agents;

Thirdly, study the ways and means of destruction of the out-of-date biological agents in relation with the services entrusted with the environment;

Fourthly, to set up controls for the verification of the application of the measures drawn up.

Other preventative activities are also envisaged, as follows:

The setting up of national and regional units;

The strengthening of control measures within laboratories carrying out services as regards food security;

The promotion of specialized reference laboratories; and finally

The drawing up of recommendations on the conduct to have in case of biological contamination and its dissemination regarding the structures concerned.

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