

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

Mr. Chairman, allow me, first of all, to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation for your presiding over the meeting of 2007 of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction. We are convinced that your experience and your diplomatic tact are a certain guarantee of the success of our proceedings. We are fully justified in that conviction because, under your chairmanship in the Sixth Conference last year, you succeeded in bringing points of view together in a context marked in the area of disarmament by the deepest disagreements and the most substantial frustrations and I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, of our support for your efforts. I would also like to congratulate the ISU, led by Mr. Richard Lennane, for the good job done since the creation of the Unit by the Sixth Review Conference. My delegation of course support the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned by Ambassador Juan Antonio Fernandez Palacios.

Biological weapons are one of the few types of weapons banned by Resolution 1540 as mass destruction weapons together with nuclear and chemical weapons. In this framework, the global strategy against terrorism adopted in September 2006 by the General Assembly of the United Nations stressed the importance of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction and also called for its universalization. In this framework, it is encouraging to note that to date 159 States have acceded to the Convention which also has 15 signatory countries, which brings us close to the ideal of universality which we hope will occur in the near future. The efforts which you have been making, Mr. Chairman, in this regard are edifying and deserve to be stressed and encouraged and they have been by all the delegations who have spoken before me. It should also give rise to emulation of those who will succeed you as Chairman of the Conference.

Similarly, it should be recalled that the Convention on Biological Weapons remains an incomplete instrument in the absence of a verification mechanism which is yet to be established through negotiations and which should take into consideration all the articles of the Convention.

The year 2007 coincided with the beginning of the intersessional work programme to strengthen national capacity for the application of the Convention through the elaboration of adequate national legislation, strengthening of regional cooperation and institutions, and subregional cooperation and institutions, for the implementation of the Convention. It is thus important to develop a common understanding on action to be undertaken in this area. It is also essential that the various provisions of the Convention should all be complied with by all the States Parties in order to ensure the necessary balance between the total prohibition on the use or manufacture of pathogens for military purposes and the scientific needs of medical science or research while guaranteeing cooperation among

States Parties, as provided for in Article X of the Convention. Strengthening the capacities of States for the preparation and response in case of accidental propagation of toxins also remains of crucial importance in international efforts to limit the hazards of handling such products.

The Kingdom of Morocco is an ardent defender of complete and total disarmament and is a State Party to virtually all of the legal instruments concerning disarmament and since the deposition of the instruments of ratification to the Convention on Biological Weapons in 2002, it has regularly submitted its national report. This year again, my country has submitted to the Implementation Support Unit its national report on the application of confidence-building measures. The Kingdom of Morocco remains committed to complying with its obligations under this Convention and we have supported every effort to fully and effectively implement it and to make it universal.
