

Unofficial translation

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**AT THE MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION**

GENEVA, 10 DECEMBER 2007

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair. I am confident that we can trust your vast experience of presiding over the BWC meetings as you will guide us towards a successful outcome of this meeting of States Parties.

BWC is one of the cornerstones of disarmament and non-proliferation of the WMD. Its significance is rising against the backdrop of rapid growth of life sciences, whose discoveries may have dual use nature, and the danger of use of weaponised new and genetically modified biological agents and toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict. Russia fully complies with its obligations under the Convention.

While supporting the decision adopted by the Sixth Review Conference to continue the intersessional process, we still look forward to an early resumption of multilateral negotiations to develop a legally binding instrument to verify compliance with the Convention that will be the best way of strengthening its regime. Our position of principle on this point remains without change.

Mr Chairman,

This meeting, focusing on ways and means to enhance national implementation and regional and sub-regional co-operation on implementation of the Convention, is grounded on a footing provided by the Meeting of Experts in August as well as last year's Sixth Review Conference and the 2003 intersessionals.

A number of ideas and proposals put forward at the Meeting of Experts in August were collated by you in a Synthesis Paper dated 18 October, 2007. We are of the view that this document may serve as a basis for the upcoming discussion to which the Russian delegation intends to make a positive contribution. We should also take into account new proposals that may be advanced by States parties at this meeting and incorporate the results of the year's work in the outcome document that will serve to further strengthen the regime of the Convention. It will be useful to attach to this meeting's report, as it was done before, all statements and working papers provided to the Chairman. Using these resources States Parties, in accordance with their constitutional procedures, will be able to take necessary measures to enhance national implementation.

Mr Chairman,

We have stated at the various BWC meetings that Russia has established a legislative and administrative framework to fully implement the BWC. We pursue regional co-operation on issues relating to the Convention with other countries primarily in the Organisation of the Collective Security Treaty, Eurasian Economic Community, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. New developments relating to the above are described in a working document circulated by us at the August meeting. Russia is ready, upon request, to share experience on developing legislation to ensure national implementation including regulation of work with pathogens and toxins.

Mr Chairman,

At this stage in history of the BWC confidence building measures (CBMs) are the main instrument to enhance mutual confidence of the States Parties in compliance with the Convention. We think that CBMs are very important and useful. However, the situation remains unsatisfactory because nearly 100 States Parties, including those that have a developed biotechnological industry and advanced R&D facilities, fail to submit declarations. In this connection on 15 October the depositaries of the Convention – Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom – circulated a Joint Statement to support universal submission of CBM information, which contains an offer to share, upon request, expertise on compiling data and filing CBM returns. I call upon all States Parties to annually submit their CBMs.

In conclusion I would like to stress the importance of continuing efforts to universalise the BWC. We have taken note of the useful activities that you, Mr Chairman, have performed on this track during this year. We welcome the States that acceded to the Convention in 2007 – Kazakhstan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Gabon – and hope that next year the score will be at least as good as this.

Mr Chairman,

The Russian delegation is ready for effective work and fruitful co-operation with all delegations in the interest of addressing the tasks that we have on our agenda.

Thank you.