



Statement by Mr. Vehbi Esgel Etensel
First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey
at the Meeting of States Parties to the BWC
Geneva, 10 December 2007

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by congratulating you for your leadership not only during the Meeting of Experts in August, but also in the Review Conference of 2006. We are now building on the outcome of these two previous meetings. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for the efforts devoted to the preparations of this meeting. The Turkish Delegation is ready to extend its full support for the work ahead.

Mr. Chairman,

During last year's Conference, we reviewed the provisions of the Convention thoroughly and agreed on a programme of work for their implementation. Having adopted a comprehensive intersessional programme for 2007 to 2010, we already addressed two important topics in August; namely, enhancing national implementation and consideration of regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation of the Convention. Based on our extensive work at the Meeting of Experts, we were able to compile States Parties' contributions in the functional "Synthesis Paper", under your wise guidance.

In this context, Turkey had the pleasure of contributing to the work by sharing detailed information on national legislation, law enforcement and regional cooperation.

In the context of BWC activities in 2007, equally noteworthy is the establishment of the "Implementation Support Unit" (ISU) in 2007, which we value as a remarkable step to strengthen the BWC regime. Although modest in size, the ISU has already been instrumental in providing institutional support to States Parties.

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We also welcome the streamlining of the procedure for the submission and distribution of the “Confidence Building Measures” (CBMs), with a view to increase the level of participation. As indicated in our Statement in August, Turkey submitted its CBM report in April 2007.

We share the broad understanding within the BWC community that further efforts have to be devoted to strengthening and improving the implementation of the Convention. Accordingly, States Parties may wish to make use of the 2007-2010 period to consider fresh ideas for an implementation mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention.

The endeavours for promoting universalization of the Convention must continue. Turkey shall spare no efforts in promoting universal adherence to and effective implementation of the BWC regime.

This position is fully in line with our commitment to arms control, disarmament and fight against the proliferation of all kinds of WMD. From a wider perspective, this approach becomes especially important in a region where adherence to and compliance with major international instruments on arms control and disarmament are relatively poor.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Turkey, as a State Party will continue to play an active role in the achievement of the aims of the BWC.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.