



Statement  
by H.E. Mr. Volodymyr E. Bielashov,  
Head of the Delegation of Ukraine,  
to the Annual Meeting 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

Geneva  
December 12, 2007

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. First of all, please, allow me to join the previous speakers in extending to you my sincere congratulations upon your assumption of Chairmanship of the Meeting 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 (BTWC). I am sure that your professionalism and wise leadership in this fora will help identifying new ideas and approaches to the strengthening and improving of the BTWC effectiveness and its implementation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

2. The Delegation of Ukraine fully associates itself with the Statements delivered on behalf of the European Union. At the same time, I would like to use this opportunity to add several comments concerning the issues which we are discussing at the Meeting of the States Parties.

3. During the last decade the world was the stage of important developments in political, social and economic spheres. Currently, we witness significant achievements in biotechnology and molecular biology. At the same time, today, the biological terrorism, natural and technologically induced emergency situation caused by the release of biological hazardous agents represent a real threat to the life on our planet.

In this regard, stricter national implementation of the BTWC is crucially important in the international endeavors for a safer world.

Unfortunately, the present situation with adoption of the BTWC implementing legislation at the national level is far from being satisfactory. Therefore, creation of effective mechanisms facilitating introduction by the States Parties of the national implementing legislation and appropriate administrative measures according to the BTWC are very important.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. Ukraine fully complies with its obligations under the Convention and has never had the intention to develop, produce, stockpile or acquire in any way the biological weapons, equipment or means of its delivery. Our country annually submits to the United Nations Secretariat required information on the BTWC implementation within the framework of confidence-building measures adopted by the Second and Third Review Conference of the States Parties to BTWC.

5. The fact that States Parties to the BTWC have announced the absence of weapons, equipment and means of delivery in their annual declarations is the evidence of the availability of prospects for the efficient prohibition of biological weapons. Unfortunately, quite a number of countries remain outside of this process.

At the same time, the existing confidence-building measures are not sufficient for ensuring the efficient implementation of the Convention. They cannot substitute control mechanism. For this reason, Ukraine considers the absence of the BTWC verification regime as a serious obstacle for its full observance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. We believe that the international community needs to implement appropriate measures and intensify its efforts to increase not only the effectiveness but as well the universality of the Convention as a unique regime in the field of proliferation of biological weapons. It is especially crucial today in the view of reality of the global bio-terrorism threat.

Universality is not simply an aspiration, or a goal to be achieved for its own sake. We strongly believe that in order to create the atmosphere of international trust, transparency and mutual responsibility, and with the aim to give a further credibility to the BTWC, we need higher degree of participation in the Convention. Since some States have not yet made their choice in favour of BTWC, it is our joint necessity to use all possible political instruments to convince them to accede to the Convention in order to achieve its ultimate goal - to make the world free of biological weapons. My Government appeals to those countries, which have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so without further delay.

In this regard, we welcome adoption by the EU in 2006 a Joint Action to enhance, *inter alia*, the universality of the Convention through outreach activities.

7. To conclude, **Mr. Chairman**, I would like to stress that Ukraine considers expert level meetings and meetings of States Parties to be effective tools for improving the Convention. We also believe that after suspension of negotiations on the elaboration of verification protocol to the BTWC such meetings represent considerable step towards strengthening the Convention and further joint search for concrete ways for improvement of its regime which will allow us to meet adequately new challenges and threats.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.