



Arab Republic of Egypt

Statement of Ambassador Sameh Shoukry Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, Geneva

**Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention
20th November – 8th December, 2006**

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention. We have no doubt that your exceptional diplomatic skills, profound knowledge, and vast experience will steer this conference effectively. Let me assure you of my delegations full support and offer you our best wishes for a successful and productive conference.

Mr. President,

Ever since Egypt signed the Biological Weapons Convention on the 10th of April 1972, our position regarding biological and toxin weapons has been marked by full transparency and clarity. We believe that the BWC remains the primary international multilateral treaty which serves as the foundation for biological weapons disarmament. The prohibition of the development, production, and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxin weapons is a position which my government remains committed to, not only due to our recognition of the unacceptable consequences related to this type of weapon from both the humanitarian and moral perspective, but also because of my country's relentless diplomatic efforts to achieve the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction both globally and regionally. In 1990, Egypt launched an initiative to render the Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction and has stressed in various international disarmament fora the necessity to prohibit WMD in the Middle East without exception, whether nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. The Middle East is a volatile region burdened by a series of devastating conflicts. Weapons of mass destruction can only fuel additional instability in the region.

Mr. President,

As much as my country is committed to the humanitarian and moral objectives of the BWC, as reflected by our signature of the Treaty ever since its inception, my government remains deeply troubled by certain deficiencies regarding the effectiveness of the implementation of the treaty

as well as the continuation of conditions in the region of the Middle East which have served as a fundamental obstacle towards our becoming a full state party. Israel not only sits on an arsenal of nuclear weapons, but has consistently refused to sign the Biological Weapons Convention thereby once again obstructing international efforts towards the elimination of the threat of the proliferation of WMD. Mr. President, while Egypt is fully committed to the global elimination of weapons of mass destruction whether nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and in particular in the region of the Middle East, we urge the international community to address this issue in an effective and practical manner so as to achieve this objective universally and in a non-discriminatory manner.

Mr. President,

As signatory to the BWC, my government has exhibited a solid interest in participating in meetings and events related to the treaty. Egypt has consistently participated in the BWC work program from 2003 -2005 leading up to the Preparatory Committee of this Sixth Review Conference. Our keenness in participating in the meetings emanate from a profound belief in the value we attribute to the BWC and its humanitarian and moral objectives, as well as our support for the overall spirit of the convention.

Mr. President,

Let me in conclusion reiterate my government's full support for your endeavors as President of the Sixth Review Conference and stress that my delegation is prepared to work with you effectively to ensure a successful outcome to this Conference. We have no doubt that under your wise leadership in the next three weeks, such a success could be attained.

Thank You