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At the Sixth Biological Weapons Convention
Review Conference**

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Mr. President,

It is a pleasure to be here in Geneva at the sixth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWTC).

More than 30 years ago the Biological Weapons Convention entered into force, Georgia joined it later.

Three – pronged strategy of national, bilateral and multilateral measures for combating the biological weapons threat were recognized at the Fifth Review Conference in November 2002.

As the representative of anti – plague system of the post – Soviet country, I can ensure you, that this strategy is very productive in reaching the goals of BWTC. At the national level, we make efforts to elaborate national legislation on improving biosafety/ biosecurity.

Today the interest of perpetrators to especially dangerous pathogens (EDPs) has increased. Very important for prevention of proliferation of WMD is keeping EDPs in well – equipped high – containment laboratories where they are secure. Not only physical security, but personnel reliability plays main role here. As often reaching such level of biosafety/ biosecurity is not easy, consolidation of EDPs in central reference laboratories is very important.

It must be mentioned, that we have tremendous support from the Government of the United States of America, particularly, US DoD Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

Very important is the adoption and enforcement of effective export control measures by requiring all states to criminalize proliferation under UN Security Council Resolution 1540. In this direction we see the increasing role of law enforcement in preventing biocrimes. But national law enforcement can be guided by international organizations – initiative of Interpol in preventing bioterrorism should be encouraged and supported.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate you with your election, and we look forward to successful work with you and delegates from other countries.

Thank you.