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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine,  
to the Sixth Review Conference 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  
November 20, 2006**

**Mr. Chairman,**

First of all, please allow me to join the previous speakers in extending to you my sincere congratulations upon your assumption of Chairmanship. I am sure that your professionalism and wise leadership in this fora will help identifying new ideas and approaches to the strengthening and improving the BTWC effectiveness and its implementation. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to provide its full support and co-operation for achieving this our common goal.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset let me recall that the Delegation of Ukraine fully associates itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. At the same time I would like to use this opportunity to add some information and several comments concerning the problems which we are discussing.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As a co-author of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Ukraine is clearly aware of the importance of the role that the BTWC played during last decades and is continuing to play as a part of international legal documents in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover in the period between the Fifth and Sixth Review Conferences Ukraine became the party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol on the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. Despite the age of the Protocol, its relevance is undiminished.

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. In accordance with the decision of the Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference we have submitted to the Secretariat a document entitled "Information on the compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the BTWC".

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.

The fact that States Parties to 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.

At the same time, quite a number of countries remain beyond the frames of this process. The existing confidence-building measures are useful but 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.

Besides, the necessity to establish unified mechanism for ensuring the effective control over the implementation of the Convention, in our opinion, is caused by the increase of threat of use of biological and toxin weapons, especially with the terrorist purposes. Although Ukraine proceeds from the advisability to

establish the international institutional mechanisms for more effective BTWC implementation, we are fully aware of the difficulties of the achieving the consensus over the ways for this idea practical realization.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We also believe it is necessary that the international community implements appropriate measures and intensifies its efforts to increase the effectiveness and, what is also very important, universality of the Convention, as well as of its regime as a powerful tool to control the proliferation of biological weapons. We do believe that it is especially crucial today, in the view of a real bio-terrorism threat.

Universality of the Convention has always been and will remain in the future one of the key prerequisites for its comprehensive implementation. Adherence to the BTWC makes an important contribution to international peace and security as well as global anti-terrorism efforts.

Against the background of growing threat of terrorist activities not only broader BTWC membership is essential, but its stricter national implementation is also crucially important in the international endeavours for a safer world. Unfortunately the present situation with adoption of BTWC implementing legislation at the national level is far from satisfactory. Therefore creation of effective mechanism facilitating introduction by the States Parties of the national implementing legislation and appropriate administrative measures according to the BTWC are very important as well.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We share the idea that the three-year intersessional work programme had been successful.

We also believe that after the suspension of negotiations on the elaboration of verification protocol to the BTWC such meetings represent the considerable step towards strengthening the Convention.

We share the view that there should be further intersessional work programme. In our view important topics for discussion should be found. In particular it could be the following issues:

- strengthening the effectiveness of the confidence building measures;
- development of adequate measures for control over the BTWC compliance;
- introduction of national implementing legislation;
- new challenges and threats for the BTWC stemming from the latest scientific and technological developments in the spheres of biology and biotechnology;
- countering bio-terrorism.

Our country declares its readiness to join efforts aimed at resolving these problems and securing the successful implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention on the hole.

Thanks for your attention.