

**Mission Permanente
du Royaume du Maroc**

Genève



البعثة الدائمة
للمملكة المغربية
جنيف

Statement by H.E Mr.Mohammed LOULICHKI

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco**

**Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the
Biological Weapons Convention
Geneva, 20 november – 8 december 2006**

Mr President,

Let me at the outset, start by congratulating you warmly on your election as the President of the six 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.

My delegation looks forward to working closely with you and is confident that under your able guidance, our work will achieve meaningful progress, leading us to a successful outcome of this review conference.

Allow me also to convey my sincere thanks to the secretariat for their noteworthy efforts.

My delegation fully alignes itself with statement delivered by Cuba on behalf of the NAM and other States Parties .

Mr President,

The Kingdom of Morocco considers the Biological weapons convention as a key component of the international disarmament and non proliferation framework. For more than 30 years, its has underpinned international efforts to prevent the development, production, stockpiling, proliferation and use of biological and toxin weapons and to ensure that the extraordinary advances in biological sciences will be used only for the benefit of humankind.

Today, with the new developments in biotechnology and genetic engineeeing, and the challenges of the potential use and/or threat of use of biological agents and toxins as an instrument of war and terror, there is a greater necessity and urgency for states parties to the BWC to work towards strengthening and improving the effectiveness and implementation of the Convention.

The universal adherence to and further strengthening of the Convention, through multilateral negotiations, will make a significant contribution to the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

Mr President

Since it ratified the the Biological Weapons Convention in 2002, the Kingdom of Morocco has faithfully complied with its obligations under the BWC. Even before joining the Convention, biological and toxin weapons have never been part of our national military doctrine and Morocco has never developped, produced, stockpiled or acquired any of these lethal weapons.

Convinced by the necessity to prevent or reduce the occurrence of ambiguities, doubts and suspicions between BWC states parties, Morocco submitted, last year, its first report in conformity with the Confidence-Building Measures agreed by the States Parties during the 2nd and the 3rd Review Conferences of the BWC. It also submitted a second report, this year, and is willing to participate regularly in this very relevant process.

Mr President

The expectation of my delegation for the Conference is for a positive and successful outcome, that will reaffirm our unity against biological and toxin weapons in all circumstances, and the relevance of the Convention to national and international security.

My delegation attaches great importance to a thorough and full review of the operation of the BWC, including consideration of the work of the three intersessional meetings of experts and states parties in 2003, 2004 and 2005, in order to identify, discuss and agree on the measures to be taken to further strengthen the Convention.

We support the establishment of a new follow-up mechanism, with a comprehensive and thematically structured mandate, that would provide a needed continuity between review Conferences. On the basis of the evaluation of the implementation of article X of the Convention, to be done during the review, the new follow-up mechanism should, notably, include practical steps towards facilitation and participation in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.

We are also ready to discuss the improvement of the existing BWC Confidence Building Measures in order to enhance their potential to strengthen compliance with the Convention and to improve transparency. We hope that such discussion will help improve the rate of participation in this voluntary exchange of data and information.

Last but not least, the universality of the Convention is an objective we should all be working for, as the limited membership to the Convention may erode confidence in its capacity to address the security of States parties. We welcome the several papers submitted to the Conference on this issue and we are ready to contribute to the debate around them.

In Conclusion, Mr President, My delegation believes that it is important that states parties agree a substantive outcome at this review Conference to strengthen the Convention and build a sound basis for future work. I wish to assure you, once again, of my delegation's fullest support in leading us to this end.