

**STATEMENT BY LIBYA TO THE SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

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The challenges faced by this Convention compel us to coordinate between ourselves to concert our positions and to develop our capacities and to create new mechanisms in order to strengthen the standing of this Convention and to guarantee the interest of its States Parties, and also to deal effectively with all the challenges faced by the implementation of the Convention at the international level. At the same time we call upon States Parties in the Convention to shoulder their responsibility towards Convention. We call upon them to show sufficient flexibility in order to reach resolutions and recommendations that serve the purposes of the Convention.

Mr President, biological disarmament is a noble objective. The Convention seeks to achieve this noble objective since many decades. And when we speak about biological weapons, we mustn't mix between weaponisation programmes and the programmes for biotechnologies and for peaceful purposes. We strongly affirm the right of all countries to carry out research and to develop their scientific capabilities in order to use biotechnology for peaceful purposes. We strongly reject, however, double standards in addressing this question. And we also refuse the discrimination between one country and another and their attempt in order to prevent proliferation of biological weapons.

Mr President, international peace and security cannot be achieved through the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction or through the threat of the use of these weapons, but through the entrenchment of the principle of dialogue and understanding, and through the strengthening of the cooperation between all peoples of the world, and also through the promotion of development and combating disease, hunger and poverty. My country had expressed that clearly when, out of its own free will and voluntarily announced scrapping all the equipments and programmes that might lead to the production of prohibited weapons. My country as such had shown that arms' race, whether it's biological weapons or other weapons, cannot serve international peace and security. Therefore, we hope that our initiative will be an example to be followed, and we call upon all countries of the world to accede to the CBW(sic).

Mr President, thirty years have passed since we have signed the Convention on Prevention of Biological Weapons. However, the aspired results remain

disappointing and the objectives elude us. The dangers of such weapons reaching the hands of terrorists remain. What worries us most is that any concrete progress has not yet been achieved and the objectives that we reached to realize through the provisions of this Convention, foremost amongst them is a world free of bio-weapons, remain elusive.

Mr President, Libya is fully committed to the letter and spirit of the provisions of the Convention. We are committed to cooperate with States Parties. We work in the full transparency and credibility. Libya had actively participated in the negotiations regarding the conclusion of a protocol on strengthening the provisions of the Convention, and the meetings of States Parties on an annual level, the meetings of Expert Groups, in order to promote the provisions of the Convention. We have also established a national committee on the ethics of biotechnology and the safety of biotechnology in order to achieve the following results: the establishment of a national mechanism for food and inspection control and we are about to adopt this mechanism as well as taking all the other measures in order to enact a law on the surveillance of food and inspection control after the popular conferences would adopt this law. We have also established a working group to draw up an early warning system to survey infectious diseases. We have also established a working group to enact and to amend health law number 106 for the year 1973. We have also established a working group to establish a code of conduct and to draw up the scientific basis for research and different scientific fields. We have also conducted workshops on biotechnology and bio-safety in public laboratories in cooperation with developed countries. We have also conducted a workshop on bio-safety and bio-security in cooperation with the United States and the United Kingdom.

Mr President, we feel disappointed that the States Parties have not yet reached a mechanism for the enforcement and implementation of Convention. We had said that we need to go back to the Additional Protocol as it being the best solution so that our meetings do not remain just words on paper without taking into consideration the true threats that can beset countries, especially in the health field, if these materials fall into the hands of terrorist groups. In this respect, we look towards achieving concrete progress in the implementation and universalization of this Convention in order to bring it to universalization and to put an end in a conclusive way to the illegal uses of life sciences.

In conclusion we remain hopeful that this Review Conference will lead to conclusions and recommendations that will promote information and experience exchange that will urge countries with technical and financial capabilities to help other States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, and that the said conclusions and recommendations will take into consideration the financial and technical problems faced by developing countries. Thank you.