Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction
Preparatory Committee 26. – 27. August

General exchange of views

Mr. President,

let me echo other speakers in congratulating you on your designation as President of the 8th Review Conference. I would like to assure you that you have the full confidence of our delegation, and that we look forward to cooperating with your team.

Norway attaches great importance to the Convention and to the upcoming Review Conference. We are pleased to see the strong commitment and engagement to this Conference by States Parties. A number of interesting working papers have been tabled. Norway has aligned itself with some of these papers, and we will study the others carefully.

From a Norwegian perspective, it is imperative to strengthen the BTWC and not least the way States Parties implement the obligations of this Treaty. Over the last 10 years, a number of improvements have taken place, such as the Intersessional Process and the Implementation Support Unit, and also when it comes to universalization, confidence-building measures, biological safety and security and facilitation of technical cooperation. Evidently, there is still room to do more - and that will be our task at the upcoming Review Conference.

Norway believes that partnership should guide us in our preparations to this Conference. We may all have different priorities and aspirations, but in the end, we need to agree on a Work Program for the next five years. Guided also by a spirit of compromise, we should explore feasible ways to make the BTWC work even better than today, and not least to accommodate non-proliferation and security with commitments on peaceful cooperation and assistance. We are convinced that this is fully doable. Thank you, Mr. President.