

Excellency Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen.

In my open remarks at this Meeting, please allow me, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola and the delegation accompanying me, to take this opportunity to congratulate you HE, **Amandeep Singh Gill, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament**, as Chairman of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, and wishing you success in leading the work of this meeting.

The BWC has a central role in the international architecture of non-proliferation of WMD, which materializes the efforts of the international community for a world free of these weapons.

As you know, the Republic of Angola recently ratified the BWC, becoming the 175th State Party to this important international instrument, which reflects the commitment of the Angolan Government in monitoring this matter and the concern for international peace and security as fundamentals premises for the healthy coexistence between peoples and countries.

Similarly, the Republic of Angola has supported several initiatives, leading to non-proliferation, possession and use of unconventional weapons by states and non-states actors, reason why is party of some relevant international instruments as CWC, the NPT and is finalizing the ratification process of other important treaties and conventions.

The Republic of Angola is pleased to have established the National Authority, which will have the task of national implementation of the BWC.

We are in the final phase of the start-up process, and we welcome and would like to count on the support of the Implementation Support Unit of BWC and to cooperate with all States Parties.

It is essential to mention that this was an important year for the Republic of Angola, because it was a year of elections, which in itself will mark the history of the country by the level of organization, citizenship of the people and the generational change of leadership.

Regarding to Biological Weapons Convention, we recognize it's important role and we believe that much has been done by the States Parties, with emphasis on the universalization and the implementation of national measures. However, the BWC deserves our ongoing study with a view to

developing the implementation and the adequacy of the current international situation, marked by increased conflict and the possibility of possession and use of biological weapons.

Thus, we hope that this meeting will produce valuable effects for the best acting of the BWC and adoption of important recommendations in order to seek to make progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference, with a view to reaching consensus on an inter sessional process.

Finally, the Republic of Angola as new state party to the BWC encourages other States to sign and ratify the BWC and takes this opportunity to underline the need for greater exchange of information, know-how transfer to ensure a better use of technological advances in the prevention and protection against biological weapons, as well as international technical assistance to States Parties, in particular to developing countries.

**I request to post this statement as an official document in the BWC website.**

I Thank you Mr. Chairman.