Mr. President:

Three weeks ago when we started our deliberations we indicated that we were encouraged by the number of proposals put forward for consideration to the Review Conference and for the impetus of the discussions during the prep Com.

We would like to thank you, Mr. President, and all those who contributed to the Review Conference, including ambassador Biontino, the facilitators, Vice presidents and the members of the Implementation Support Unit. Your work and their work was comprehensive, balanced and mindful of the many proposals coming from different sources.

However, it is our humble opinion, that Colombia’s and other States Parties’ ambition to achieve a more robust outcome of the Eighth Review Conference has not truly been met with the kind of results that mankind deserves.

The language reflected in the documents that we have adopted strongly resembles the outcome of the VII Review Conference. Some would even say that it’s a step backwards.

In the meantime, from our discussions it is clear to everyone here that the threat posed by biological weapons evolves, not by the year, but by the minute and that new technologies make it more feasible for anyone to have access to these dangerous elements.

Therefore, and bearing in mind this reality, we regret the limited scope of the progress achieved in our discussions. In particular, the very limited measures to allow countries to strengthen national implementation by making use of essential tools such as Resolution 1540, and measures aimed at non-State Actors, whose threat my country knows well.

Colombia will work hard during the next five years in the hope that the next review Conference will adopt a more substantive plan for the implementation of the BWC. We reaffirm our will to work towards a comprehensive implementation of the Convention with the modest resources afforded by the present review conference.

I Thank you, Mr. President.