Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the general debate

2018 Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

4 December 2018, Geneva

Mr. Chairman,

Delegation of Azerbaijan would like to thank you as the Chair of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and express our confidence in advancing the work of the Convention. We also take this opportunity to thank the Implementation Support Unit for their dedicated work. We associate ourselves with NAM statement delivered earlier.

Azerbaijan reaffirms its strong support to the Biological Weapons Convention and we consider this convention as key pillar of disarmament and non-proliferation design for fundamental instrument to counter the threats and use of biological weapons by States or non-State actors.

Mr. Chairman,

We have developed over years a comprehensive national export control system with a solid legislation basis in line with international standards. Up to date our national export control system has proved itself as a reliable mechanism in preventing illicit trafficking. But due to the Armenian military occupation of twenty percent of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan for almost 25 years makes it not possible for us to implement full scale export controls. The facilitated access to materials and technology on different forms of weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the conflict affected areas non-controlled by the respective governments has always been and continues to be a major cause for concern for the entire international community.
Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan attaches a great importance to the universalization of the Convention. Every new accession helps to strengthen the global norm against biological and toxin weapons and to reduce the risk of their proliferation. It is essential to continue to reach out to those states not yet State Parties to the Convention and to seek for further ways how effectively synchronise all existing efforts to achieve this goal.

Azerbaijan hopes that issues related to the agenda on the Meeting of States Parties program will be successfully settled at this meeting.