Mr. Chairman,

Albania congratulates you on your chairmanship and your efforts and engagement for holding this Meeting of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. We assure you of the full support of our delegation.

Albania has aligned itself with the statement of the European Union. In addition, I would like to add the following in a national capacity.

We welcome the new members to the BTWC and urge them to honor the implementation of the Convention. Albania considers BTWC to be a convention of special importance in the framework of the rules-based international system prohibiting the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The provisions of the Convention have been incorporated in Albania’s national legislation. In this vein, we firmly believe that enhancing transparency and building confidence in compliance, including through necessary revisions to the current Confidence-Building Measures (CBM), is of utmost importance. To contribute in this regard, States Parties should ensure timely submission of the annual reports.

Regarding universalization of the BTWC, we welcome the ongoing progress with new accessions and ratifications and thank the MSP Chair and the ISU for their work. We call on all States not yet party to the Convention to adhere thereto without further delay.

We welcome the Expert Meetings reports as well as the summaries prepared under the responsibility of the respective chairs, which will provide a solid basis for the subsequent intersessional meetings in the run up to the Ninth Review Conference in 2021.
Mr. Chairman,

We remain concerned by the current financial situation of the BTWC. The payment of financial contributions in full and on time is an imperative, so as not to further hinder our collective efforts to work towards the full and effective implementation of the Convention. The situation caused by the accumulation of arrears and continued late payments needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency by all the Member States. Fulfilling the financial obligations without further delay, paying the dues in full and on time, is the only guarantee for realizing the potential of the current intersessional program, to which we have jointly agreed.

As this year’s Meeting of States Parties had to be shortened and the staff of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) continues to be faced with uncertainty about their future contracts, financial stability is the keyword for continuing the activity in the framework of the Convention, to convene the meetings and enable the continued functioning of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), for its professional work and the institutional memory it represents. It bears repeating that honoring by all States Parties of their financial obligations, including payment of relevant arrears, in full and on time, is an essential step to be taken without delay.

We firmly believe that all States Parties have to engage constructively and reach consensus regarding the necessary measures with respect to budgetary and financial issues, to properly address the financial predictability and sustainability, and to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.