Thank you Mister Chairman,

at the outset, allow me to congratulate you ambassador Molnar, once again, for your election to the President-designate of the BTWC 8th Review conference and to reiterate full readiness of our delegation to corporate and work close with you.

Also, allow me to extend our gratitude to the Implementation Support Unit for their inputs and dedicated work to have fruitful and productive discussions during this session of Preparatory Committee. Your background documents on five topics, analogous to the regional workshops on BTWC RC – like one held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in June, 2016, give us valuable contextual platform for productive and focussed discussions during this session, but also for the desirable strong outcome of the upcoming Review Conference.

Furthermore, I would like to underline that in the light of formulating the rest of 3 documents by the ISU (on the national compliance, implementation of articles VII and X), the Republic of Serbia submitted its written contribution and is calling other state parties to do same.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Serbia aligns itself with the statement to be given by the European Union later on and would like to add some remarks from a national perspective.

The number of submitted proposals and working papers (17 altogether by this weekend) is encouraging, clearly demonstrating high impotence which state parties give to further strengthening and advancing of the Convention implementation, as well as to decisions which should be made at the upcoming Review Conference and in the framework of the Intersessional programme beyond.
In that respect, Republic of Serbia is giving high attention to those propositions submitted by the state parties and is ready to hear the new ideas and proposals during this general exchange of views. Apart to the overall assessment of the necessity to strengthen national implementation and compliance, investigation and verification mechanism, Articles VII and X, we do see the need – and it is clear by the number of working papers which refer to it - to agree upon the appropriate arrangement for sustainable and efficient evaluations and catch up with the rapid science and technology developments and its constantly changing context.

Among all submitted proposals we do see a lot of convergence, which could be good basis for the realisation of our common goal to advance and to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and to build up the proper mechanisms and tools to achieve that.

Let me assure you that the Republic of Serbia will work constructively to accomplish those objectives.

Thank you.