EU Statement

Meeting of States Parties

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

Progress with universalisation of the Convention

Geneva, 4-7 December 2018

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The EU calls on all States not yet party to the BTWC to adhere thereto without further delay.

We thank the MSP Chair and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for their outreach efforts and welcome the recent ratifications and accessions, including the imminent ratification of Tanzania, which will increase the membership to 183.

The EU and its Member States have a long track record in promoting universal adherence to the BTWC. Nearly all of the 30 States who have joined the Convention in recent years have participated in the EU-funded regional workshops, benefited from universalisation visits or received other assistance.

As highlighted in the Chair's annual report on universalisation activities, the EU-funded projects under Council Decision 2016/51/CFSP included a universalisation visit to Haiti in March and a regional workshop for African countries, organised by IGAD and UNODA in Djibouti in October. The last regional workshop under the current EU Council Decision will take place in Addis Ababa from 11 to 12 December and we are grateful to the African Union and UNODA for co-organising it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

* Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.