Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan would like congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the 2019 Meeting of BWC States Parties. We appreciate the extensive consultations undertaken by you in preparation for the Meeting of the States Parties. We assure you of our Delegation’s full support to your efforts to further advance the implementation of the Convention.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Implementation Support Unit for its dedicated work throughout this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan reaffirms its strong support to the Biological Weapons Convention and considers this Convention to be one of the most important pillars of disarmament and non-proliferation designed to counter threats and use of biological weapons by States or non-State actors.

In this regard, we would like to note that the facilitated access to materials and technologies related to different forms of weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the conflict affected areas that are non-controlled by the respective governments, has always been the major cause for concern for my country. Particularly, the continuing military occupation of twenty percent of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, makes it impossible at present to implement full scale export controls.

We would like to state once again that Azerbaijan attaches importance to the universalization of the Convention and has always met all its financial obligations under the Convention in full and on time.

We look forward to working with you and with other States Parties during this Meeting in order to put forward the Arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee in 2021.

Thank you.