STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

AT THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
OF THE 8th BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION REVIEW CONFERENCE
GENEVA, 27 APRIL 2016

Mr. Chair,

At the outset and on behalf of the Indonesian delegation, I would like to extend our congratulations to you, Mr. Chair, on your nomination as the President-designate of the 8th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention to be held in November later this year. I assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation. We have full confidence that with your vast diplomatic experience and skills, you will lead us to a successful outcome.

Let me also seize this opportunity to express my delegation’s appreciation to the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) for the excellent preparation for our meeting and also for their invaluable assistance to our deliberation.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by the delegation of Iran on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement and Other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chair,

The objective of the Review Conference is twofold. First, the Review Conference needs to look back and comprehensively review the implementation of the Convention. And equally important, the Review Conference also needs to look to the future and consider measures that would further strengthen the effectiveness and implementation of the Convention and to this end we should take decisions at the upcoming Review Conference. We should be mindful that any decision taken at the Review Conference should be based on consensus.
One particular issue that merits our attention at the 8th Review Conference is the question of future intersessional process. My delegation is of the view that we need to assess the effectiveness of the past intersessional process and identify areas that can be improved. Intersessional process is a crucial part of an overall effort to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and thus the Review Conference needs to decide future intersessional process that is inclusive, involving all states parties and addresses key issues of the Convention. In this vein, my delegation firmly believe that the intersessional process needs to regularly address the issue of exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes as provided under Article X of the Convention.

Another pertinent issue that we believe should be one of the subjects of our work in the upcoming Review Conference is the issue of verification. One of the core elements in any international convention, including the BTWC, is compliance by states parties. We therefore would like to reiterate our call for strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for verification of compliance by states parties.

Mr. Chair,

We look forward to working closely with you during the preparatory process as we move forward to the 8th Review Conference. My delegation will contribute constructively to our work.

I thank you.