BWC Preparatory Committee
(Tuesday, 26 April 2016; UNOG)

1. Introduction

• Korea supports a robust preparation process for the 8\textsuperscript{th} Review Conference and would like to emphasize that the remaining time before the Review Conference should be spent in a constructive and productive manner.
• In this regard, I thank you, Mr. Chair, for your effort to initiate early substantive discussions by encouraging countries to submit their working papers early as well as by providing chances for us to exchange our general views today.

2. Priorities in 8\textsuperscript{th} Review Conference

• I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to several points of particular interest to the Republic of Korea.

A. Strengthening the Convention & Inter-sessional Process

• First of all, Korea shares the view that the operation of the Convention needs to be further strengthened to achieve its objective.
• In order to do so, we can identify areas of common interest to strengthen the operation of the Convention, and decide on practical measures. This work can and should be done based on discussions over the past 5 years.
• Among many issues concerning the reinforcement of the operation of the Convention, we are of the view that improving current inter-sessional process is one of the priorities.
• In this regard, I welcome the US working paper on this matter. In the run-up to the Review Conference, we would like to formally and informally discuss more ideas about how best to improve the inter-sessional process, and hope we can
produce a more effective one in November.

B. Scientific and Technological Review

• (Second,) Korea believes that scientific and technological review needs to be more structured and sustainable in order to respond to modern technological challenges. It is our hope that we will be able to agree on substantial actions regarding this issue at the coming Review Conference.

• In this regard, Korea welcomes the various proposals for S&T review currently on the table.

• We see that there are more commonalities than differences in those proposals, so this could be something we could continue to work on until the Review Conference.

• We will consider these proposals by studying how each will fit into the intersessional program and how each can best serve the objective of the BWC.

C. Implementation & Cooperation

• (Third,) I would like to reiterate our firm belief that effective national implementation is the cornerstone of the BWC.

• We believe that concrete actions including domestic legislation, effective export controls, sharing best practices, and submitting CBMs report are of vital importance.

• We would like to discuss ways to promote these actions and hope that they will be well reflected in the final document of the Review Conference.

• On the other hand, it is also important that those efforts for national implementation be supported by robust international cooperation and assistance under Article X and VII.
• Korea is actively engaging various multilateral programs including the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and the Global Partnership (GP). Korea hosted the 2\textsuperscript{nd} GHSA high-level meeting and pledged 100 million dollars for developing countries’ capacity-building last year, and will serve as the chair of the steering group next year.

3. Conclusions
• Korea is committed to working together with other interested countries to achieve a successful 8\textsuperscript{th} Review Conference.
• We look forward to continuing this discussion in a more concrete manner in the next Preparatory Committee in August. /END/