STATEMENT OF ARMENIA
DURING THE MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BTWC)
GENEVA, 3 DECEMBER 2019

Thank you, Mr. President.

Armenia considers the BTWC as one of the key components of the international nonproliferation and disarmament regime and as a pivotal part in the global community’s efforts to attain a world free from Weapons of Mass Destruction.

We thank the Implementation Support Unit for the continued valuable support to the States Parties in implementing the Convention.

We are convinced that national implementation of the BTWC obligations and strengthening of national capacities are fundamental. In 2016 Armenia adopted a national program of the implementation of the provisions of the BTWC. The successful realization of this comprehensive program will essentially strengthen the biological security of my country.

A number of BTWC related commitments are also included in the national action plan of the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1540. An inter-agency working group was set up to draft a law on biosecurity and biosafety which will address a number of BTWC related measures.

Achieving the universality of the BTWC is one of our primary tasks. We call upon all the States which are not party to this convention to join the BTWC.

We consider that further progress in the implementation of the Convention requires intensive international cooperation. We should combine our efforts in order to take full advantage of the opportunities and, meanwhile, effectively counter threats that derive from the rapid progress of science and biotechnology.

The annual Confidence-Building Measures exchange is of significant importance towards strengthening confidence and compliance with the provisions of the Convention. Armenia has regularly, on a yearly basis, presented its national report to the Implementation Support Unit.
In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate that Armenia resolutely condemns all attempts of politicization of this international forum. We are convinced that all State Parties should remain faithful to the objectives of the Convention, instead of bringing forward unfounded allegations that have nothing to do with the topic of this meeting.

Thank you.