

Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

delivered by

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at

the Meeting of States Parties

to the Biological Weapons Convention

Geneva, 10 December 2007

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has pleasure in expressing to Your Excellency its gratitude for the endeavours that you are making in your capacity as Chairman of the meetings in 2007, which confirms not only your own outstanding competence but also the high esteem in which your country, Pakistan, is held. We commend your message of 24 May 2007 specifying your working plans for this year and the measures that you intend to take to promote the universality of the Convention, as well as your message of 22 October 2007 concerning preparations for this Meeting, which confirmed your high abilities. The endeavours made by the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament to prepare for this Meeting also merit our appreciation and gratitude.

Mr. Chairman,

We are meeting at a time when the world is passing through an important and delicate stage in which the international community needs to concert its peaceful efforts to ensure that security and stability prevail throughout the world, failing which mankind will not be able to achieve the lofty objectives to which it is aspiring. Accordingly, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction unquestionably forms a sound basis on which to address this delicate situation.

In this context, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the Convention and, in particular, the need for article 10 to be fully consistent with the aims and provisions thereof.

My country's Government has pleasure in drawing to your attention once again to the fact that its delegation to the BWC meetings has already informed you, on more than one occasion, of the significant steps that the competent authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have taken to implement the Convention at the national level.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to enable the United Nations and other international organizations to play the role required of them, all members of the international community must respect and diligently pursue the principles and purposes, including primarily the maintenance of international peace and security as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, for the achievement of which these international institutions were established. In furtherance of this role, my country's Government has presented its first report, pursuant to the provisions of operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1540, to the Security Council Committee established in accordance with rule 28 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

Mr. Chairman,

In keeping with the Kingdom's desire for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States in order to safeguard the common interests, achievements and potential of mankind, and wishing to contribute to the establishment of peace and security as a language of coexistence among peoples and nations, my country's Government gave close attention to the question of its accession to this and other Conventions seeking to promote international peace

and stability and minimize the dangers of the outbreak of wars in which use could be made of nuclear, biological, chemical and other internationally prohibited weapons.

The Kingdom is among the States calling for endeavours to ensure that the Middle East becomes a region free of weapons of mass destruction in keeping with the recommendation made by the Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their 101st session concerning the establishment of a Technical Committee of States Parties at the Arab League to formulate a draft regional agreement comprising the States of the Middle East, including Israel and Iran, to make the Middle Eastern region free of weapons of mass destruction. The Committee has held a number of meetings at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo in the course of which it has been able to formulate a draft agreement,

Being convinced of the dangers posed by such weapons of mass destruction, and with a view to furthering the international community's objective of prohibiting the production, use and transfer of biological weapons, the Kingdom was among the first States to sign and ratify the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972. My country is also participating effectively in all the Convention-related activities, since it believes in the noble objectives of the Convention and the positive results that it is expected to achieve. In this regard, the Kingdom is urging all States that have not yet acceded to the Convention to take the necessary steps to do so.

I would also like to refer to the International Conference to Combat Terrorism, which my country convened at Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in early February 2005 at the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, and the Final Declaration of which (the Riyadh Declaration) called for the

strengthening of international measures to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 and for the establishment of an international centre under United Nations auspices.

Mr. Chairman,

The discussions, deliberations and outcome of this important Meeting will undoubtedly make a substantial and useful contribution in this field. My country's Government will take into consideration the views expressed during this Meeting's discussions when establishing the regulatory framework for the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention at the national level. We trust that this regulatory framework will respond to all the concerns and issues referred to in the text of the Convention, such as legal, regulatory and administrative measures, prohibition and control procedures, the promulgation of legislation conducive to their implementation, and the question of security, surveillance, supervision and related issues.

I also have pleasure in informing this distinguished Meeting that the collection of data on biological research centres and laboratories and the names of the persons working therein is one of the working priorities of the national team of experts monitoring the implementation of the Convention who are exerting their utmost endeavour to complete this task.

In conclusion, we trust that this Meeting will have a useful and constructive outcome for the States Parties. We wish it every success in furthering the role and aims of the Convention in view of the positive impact that it will have on the security and stability of mankind as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.