

**MSP to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction
10-14 December 2012**

Geneva

<Check against Delivery>

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship for the 2012 meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention, and express appreciation for all your hard work as chair. I am confident that under your able leadership, this meeting will produce considerable progress and meaningful outcomes.

The Republic of Korea aligns itself with the Joint Statement of the JACKSNNZ group that was delivered by the Canadian delegation. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the challenges and opportunities we face in the framework of the Convention.

Periodic reviews and the exchange of views among the state parties of the Convention carry unique importance in comparison to other WMD-related conventions such as the NPT, the CTBT and the CWC, in that it seeks to govern the rapidly-paced fields of science and technology. In this context, my delegation notes with satisfaction the beginning of the inter-
sessional process. Through the expert meetings and the meetings of States parties, it is now our responsibility to discuss these critical issues and to make tangible progress by the next review conference in 2016.

It is my delegation's consistent view that the path to strengthen the implementation of the Convention should start with effective national implementation by each State party, which should be complemented with strong confidence-building. Strong efforts in these areas are of even greater importance considering the fact that the dual-use nature and rapid development of biotechnology present unprecedented risks and create difficulty in clarifying distinctions between peaceful and prohibited uses under the Convention.

First, national implementation is not only the starting point but also one of the most essential measures for the implementation of the Convention. The Republic of Korea believes that it is our basic obligation under the Convention to enact and enforce appropriate national

legislative measures in order to prohibit biological and toxin weapons. In addition to the penal legislation, tightened national export controls and regulations on bio-safety and bio-security, it is urgent for scientific bodies and the industry to establish and abide by voluntary regulations such as the code of conduct for the field.

Second, confidence-building through international cooperation and assistance, is another building block in our effort to strengthen and universalize the prohibition of biological and toxin weapons. To join global efforts in this regard, the Republic of Korea is participating in the Bio-security Engagement Program (BEP) as part of its G8 Global Partnership efforts to prevent terrorism or accidents related to biological materials. It has contributed to enhancing physical protection at veterinary labs in Afghanistan as well as educating the laboratory staff on bio-safety and bio-security. Furthermore, it is our sincere hope that, in serving as a clearing house, the Database for assistance requests and offers will be further developed and will be of great help in matching offers and requests among various partners.

As a means to promote transparency and confidence between State parties, the CBM is a valuable tool for the implementation of the Convention. Within this context, the Republic of Korea is open to further discussions on ways to improve the report. My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and the contributions made by the Implementation Support Unit.

Along with other WMD-related conventions, the Convention is indeed a cornerstone of the global disarmament and nonproliferation regime. It is the first multilateral treaty in history to prohibit a certain kind of weapon of mass destruction. Against this backdrop, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that many States have not joined the Convention in comparison to other WMD-related conventions such as the NPT. The universalization of the Convention is a pending issue, and my delegation would like to urge those States that have not yet joined the Convention to do so.

The Republic of Korea once again pledges its intention and willingness to work together for the strengthening of the Convention in this meeting and beyond. Along these lines, my delegation looks forward to accelerating concrete discussions aimed at further steps to be taken at the next Review Conference in 2016.

Thank you. /End/