

(Unofficial Translation)

Statement of the Delegation of
The Republic of Iraq

The Fifth Review Conference
of the States Parties to

The Convention
on the Prohibition of the Development,
Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxin Weapons
and on their Destruction

November 20th, 2001.
Geneva

- Please check upon delivery-

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Mr. Chairman,

We congratulate you for your election to the presidency of the Conference, and express our confidence that under your wise guidance, our discussions will be fruitful. We would also like to congratulate the members of the bureau for their election. We also congratulate Mr. Anrique Roman Mory for his election General Secretary of the Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Achieving the purpose of comprehensive and general disarmament under a strict, effective and fair international control has been the aim of the efforts made by the international community in the field of disarmament for decades. However, a quick review of what has been achieved leads us to the conclusion that these achievements are far limited in comparison with the aspirations of humanity. Humanity is threatened more than ever by the dangers of weapons of mass destruction. We realize that the dangers threatening the international peace and security have increased since the end of the cold war. Armament race has been going on both on the regional and international arenas, and some of the super powers are carrying on the development of new arm systems. In addition, the unilateral use of force and the domineering policies have not ceased. Thus all of us should give priority to the interests of humanity as a whole over the selfish interests of any party. We should also carry on our efforts relentlessly in order to achieve the aim of the comprehensive dismantling of weapons of mass destruction and particularly nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community managed to adopt international legally binding instruments, among which the BWC that was adopted in 1972 and went into effect in 1975. This Convention has been the first international agreement aiming at a comprehensive destruction of one of the main systems of weapons of mass destruction. Since then the international efforts have been concentrated on further reinforcing the Convention. Thus the Review Conference of the States Parties held in September 1994 led to the establishment of an Ad Hoc Group with open ended membership to all the states parties to the Convention to deal with the appropriate measures of reinforcing the Convention and possible measures of verification to be included in it through a legally binding instrument.

The Republic of Iraq attaches a great importance to all disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, and considers the Review Conferences of the Convention, and this Conference in particular, an important opportunity to deal with the strengthening of the enforcement of the Convention, putting it back on track and increasing its effectiveness in the light of the quick developing political events, and scientific and technological achievements, which the world is experiencing. The strengthening of the Convention is a major step towards achieving the aim of the Convention, which is a step towards the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction, and an important element in achieving regional and international peace and security. This, of course, cannot be achieved unless the measures of confidence building, transparency and honest cooperation are strengthened through a serious political will and away from the policy of double standards.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community have place all its hope in the adoption of the protocol achieved by the Ad Hoc Group through strenuous and tiresome efforts. But, unfortunately, in the 24th Session of the Ad Hoc Group, the United States frustrated the hopes of the international community to joining the consensus in order to adopt the protocol We hope that the United States reconsider its position. This position was the reason behind the failure of the negotiations in the 24th Session of the Ad Hoc Group. The American delegation comes out now with new substantive proposals asking the Conference to adopt them in its final declaration.

These proposals show clearly that the United States moves only when its interests are touched. Therefore, my delegation considers that there is an urgent necessity to thoroughly study these proposals and not to adopt them in hurry. They should be studied with the other proposals on equal and indiscriminatory basis while bearing in mind the interests of all the state parties and the interests of the international community so as to strengthen the enforcement of the Convention.

My delegation hopes that the Conference considers any new proposals on an equal basis and that these proposals be considered multilaterally and must not be guided by the narrow interests of a specific state.

Mr. Chairman,

Weapons of mass destruction have become a burden to the humanity. After realizing that any fire in it can propagate to burn all, the world needs first of all to establish justice through fairness rather than using the force on the basis of capability and opportunity. The essence of justice is to let others have what we ourselves wish to have, and not to inflict on others what we hate to have. Those who think that they can achieve the security they wish to live in through starving and killing others have to straighten their thinking.

Mr. Chairman,

This Conference is held after the events of the 11th of September and the terrorist use of a biological weapon (Anthrax) in the United States, which the American sources trace back to the United States itself. Thus the world needs more than ever to cooperate on the basis of a cooperative convention to get rid of the burden and danger of the mass weapons, as a first step that may encourage other steps. The greatest dangers to humanity and to the people of the United States nowadays is the American mass weapons and similar weapons used by the Zionist entity, then, or at the same time, come similar weapons in the hands of other countries. Thus the first to be asked to make the initiative to prove his honesty is the United States itself. When the United States is really willing to disarm itself of these weapons, we do not think that anyone of a sound mind would stay out of the framework of such a practical plan.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Arabic region is subject to many dangers due to the Zionist entity's stockpiling of a huge number of different types of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, together with its means of delivery. It continues to carry on developing these weapons with the direct help and cooperation of the United States thus breaking the obligations

set forth by the Agreement on Non Nuclear Proliferation and other conventions. The acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by the racist Zionist entity is accompanied by its expansionist policies and its ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people and thus endangering the whole region. Thus it is necessary to dismantle the Zionist entity's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

The security and stability in the Middle East require the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction possessed by the Zionist entity. The Security Council should stop using the double standard policy and should enforce the implementation of paragraph 14 of the Security Council resolution 687 /1991 in order to free this vital region of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

Our statement reflects Iraq's strong willingness to have the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons strengthened and to rid it of the points of criticism so that it becomes really an effective instrument of disarmament and helps in strengthening international peace and security, with all the parties equal in rights and duties. On the basis of this, my delegation considers that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group as adopted in the Extraordinary Conference of 1994 is still effective and that the Group should carry on its duties to fulfill its mandate as soon as possible.

Thanks Mr. Chairman.