

PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENEVA

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STATEMENT BY

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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

TO THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS  
AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Geneva; 20 November 2001

Mr. President.

On behalf of the delegation of Turkey, I would like to congratulate you on your election to chair the complex work of the 5th Review Conference of BWC. I am confident that we all will benefit from your leadership, diplomatic skills and broad knowledge of the issue. You have my delegation's full confidence and support.

I also would like to congratulate the other Bureau Members on their election and the Secretary General of the Conference.

Mr. President,

I wish to express Turkey's strong condemnation of the dastardly acts of terrorism against the U.S. on 11th September and reiterate our solidarity with the American People and the US Government. My country perceives the terrorists attacks of 11 September as abominable acts not against one country but against humanity and civilised world as a whole.

Mr. President,

Turkey aligned itself with the Joint European Union Statement which was delivered by my Belgium yesterday. However, we wish to make some brief additional comments which are significant for my country.

Turkey, fully cognisant of the importance of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention to reduce the threat posed by biological agents, signed this landmark treaty in 1972 and ratified it in 1974. Turkey being situated in a precarious geography believes that we should spare no effort to strengthen not only the BWC but other conventions which cover all weapons of mass destruction.

The recent bioterrorism which emerged in the form of anthrax attacks at a wide geography are clear indications of need for resolute action against biological weapons. There is no doubt that we have to approach to the BWC with a new vigour and a renewed sense of urgency. The International community has high expectations from the 5th Review Conference in the light of these horrific events. I think it is high time to address the issues of great concern with courage.

Mr. President,

- We think the best way to respond to the recent developments and expectations would be to demonstrate beyond any doubt our determination to strengthen the BWC.
- We have to make every effort to establish a multilaterally negotiated compliance and verification mechanism.
- We have to be vigilant about its universality and effective implementation.
- The final declaration of the Conference should incorporate all elements necessary for prevailing over the new challenges that lay ahead of us.

Mr. President,

My country has been participating in negotiations to obtain an effective protocol for strengthening the Convention. We have been supportive of your efforts during the 24th Session of the Ad-Hoc-Group. Although our collective efforts of the last 6.5 years have not borne fruit yet, we cannot afford to be

pessimistic either. We have to turn every stone, explore every avenue to find new ways and means to reinforce and re-invigorate the Convention so that we would be ready for the future challenges.

Thank you Mr. President.