

**STATEMENT BY CHILE TO THE SIXTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

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The Bureau in my country participates in the work of the Bureau as Vice-President will cooperate fully with you in order to reach these objectives. And we also are very pleased to see that the Secretary-General of the United Nations was with us here this morning and for his support expressed for the work of this Conference, and especially the Preparatory process which allows us to have a full set of documents which reflect the positions of various countries. These documents will be very useful in our work, and I would like to thank the Secretariat for this.

Mr President, this Review Conference, just as other meetings of similar importance, give us the opportunity, unfortunately once every five years, to review the functioning of this instrument and to guide our future work, and this opportunity should not be missed. Therefore, Chile would like to reiterate its unswerving commitment to the objective and to the purposes of this very important disarmament instrument which prohibits the production and use of all categories of weapons of mass destruction. We have expressed our commitments on numerous occasions and I will mention the Mendoza Declaration of 1991 and the MERCOSUR Declaration on the creation of a P zone from 1998.

Today we are demonstrating our commitment through the submission of the five working documents that we introduced, together with other countries of Latin America. These documents were introduced officially by Argentina. The Of strengthening our Convention it is crucial to reiterate the need to withdraw the reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and increase our efforts in that of achieving the universality of this Convention. We should set as our objectives or as our main objective to ensure that the number of States Parties to the Convention before the next Review Conference in 2011 will be at least equal to the membership of the CWC.

Mr President, we can only express our concern of the absence of a formal verification regime that will assist in the full compliance of this instrument. My country would like to see a comprehensive strengthening of the Convention, especially in light of the reality that we are all aware of, something that we see in other disarmament fora. We insist on the need to develop a step-by-step process in order to overcome this unfortunate situation, and the proposals made by Latin American countries today are aimed to achieve this goal. All of these themes are

closely interlinked and these issues deal with the following subjects: universalization, follow-up mechanism, confidence-building measures, scientific cooperation and transfer technology, and support units. All of this will lead to the strengthening of our Convention.

Mr President, the progress we have seen in the area of microbiology, genetic engineering and biotechnology, as well as the spread of this knowledge, has shown how beneficial they can be to humanity, but they also increase the threat or can lead to the situation where restrictions on the use of biological weapons will be ignored or underestimated. And this situation leads us to the urgent need to set up a strict control over these areas of work in order to prevent any development of these types of arms. The adoption of codes of conduct, of best practices, and ethics allied to life sciences in support of national legislation are the necessary tools that should be promoted.

A different perspective my country, Chile, supported as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, the adoption of Resolution 15.40, this resolution established an important precedent which commits States to adopt legislation aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is important to remember that in this work States may require assistance and is something that they should receive, and my country welcomes the contribution made by NGOs, the strengthening of this Convention, their study analyses and initiatives in which are debate, and Chile supports their participation in all disarmament fora and, therefore, would like to ensure that civil society enjoys full participation in this Review Conference.

Mr President, I would like to conclude my remarks by stating that we are beginning these three working weeks are for many delegations a tremendous human and economic effort and we are also making an ethical and moral commitment in order to avoid at all costs to find ourselves in a situation that we are sending a negative message to the international community, something will add to the not too encouraging context in which we find disarmament. Thank you.