

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
to the Sixth Review Conference of the State Party to the
Biological Weapons Convention**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join others in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Sixth Review Conference of the State Party to the Biological Weapons Convention. Your vast experience and able leadership, I am confident, will bring about constructive deliberations and positive results.

Allow me also to affirm that Indonesia fully associates itself with the statement delivered a while ago by the distinguished Ambassador of Cuba on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

The Biological Weapons Convention has been the landmark of the world effort in responding to continues threat posed by these horrendous weapons. For that reason Indonesia attaches great importance to the Convention. It is our firm conviction that the Convention can only be strengthened if it is equipped by a protocol to verify its implementation and guarantee its adherence. This protocol, which encompasses all aspects of convention, should of course be multilaterally negotiated in a balance and comprehensive manner.

Like other weapons of mass destruction, the biological weapons still pose danger to humanity, whether as a tool of war or weapons of terror. It is a common threat which could affect all nations and spread beyond boundaries. It should be assured that the production, development, and use of such weapons are prohibited globally. Indonesia, therefore, calls once again all state not parties to the convention to speed up their ratification process and join others in fighting this horrifying weapons.

At the same time, Indonesia also believes that our endeavor to strengthen the convention should not hamper the rights of each member states to gain benefit from the development of biological agents for peaceful purposes. Furthermore, Indonesia strongly support all forms of international cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of biological agents, including capacity building and combating infectious diseases.

Indonesia believes that the slow process in the multilateral negotiation forum should not hinder international cooperation in implementing the provisions of the convention. International cooperation is an indispensable step in addressing the threat of biological weapons and its related issues such as health and research. Given the nature of the threat, there is no country that can face the problem unilaterally.

As part of the effort to enhance cooperation between countries, Indonesia and Australia have been working closely in this area and had organized two Regional Workshops on Biological Weapons Convention in 2005 and 2006. These workshops served as a forum in promoting regional awareness, sharing best practices and experiences, and also discussing concerted efforts in strengthening the convention. It is hoped that such a forum could contribute to our common undertaking toward its full implementation, including in the Asia Pacific region.

To conclude, let me express our sincere hope that this Review Conference will not only address the steps that have been taken in implementing the provisions of convention, but will also discuss and recommend future measures to strengthen and improve its implementation.

I Thank you, Mr. Chairman.