

26.04.06

G.M.

BTWC PREPCOM
26 APRIL 2006
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr.Chairman,

1. I would like to join others in congratulating you on your assumption of the PrepCom. We have every confidence that your skillful management of the PrepCom meetings will lay a useful ground on which a meaningful progress can be achieved in this year's Review Conference. we assure you of our full support and cooperation in your management of this meeting.
2. The advance in bio-technology and life science and their widespread availability have increased possibilities that proliferators, both states and non-state actors, may take advantage of inherent weaknesses in the BTWC. This requires that the BTWC should try to keep abreast of these developments to counter effectively threats posed by new developments. We are of the opinion that the problems associated with BW are evolutionary in nature thus are not soluble. That requires us to constantly address these threats. In this context, the New Process of the BTWC was meaningful exercises to be followed up.
3. The BWC now faces new opportunities to revitalize itself through an overall review at the upcoming 6th Review Conference. In this regard, I would like to share with you

our expectation on the forthcoming Review conference as follows :

- 1) We prefer a comprehensive review of the operations of the BTWC
 - 2) We should set moderate and practically achievable goals by building upon past achievements
 - 3) We prefer measures discussed under New Process to be addressed as part of article by article review
 - 4) We are interested in discussing other issues judged to be effective in strengthening the regime such as holding of yearly meetings during the inter-sessional periods, strengthened CBMs and universality
 - 5) We think that considerations of measures which have been taken outside the BTWC but evaluated as useful against BW related threats should also be addressed in the upcoming Review conference as part of our efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and objective of the BTWC.
4. As with other disarmament fora, you are faced with similar difficulties as we have known in the process of setting up the important conference. We trust your vigorous consultations prior to the meeting and skillful management during the meeting will lead to making sure the relevance of the BTWC to counter BW threats. I thank you.