Mr. Chairman,

The threat of the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction continues to pose a serious danger to humanity and to peace and security. The only way to solve this problem is to abolish such horrendous weapons.

While the international community faces slow progress in the disarmament of nuclear weapons, we witness that states have made some progress in dealing with other WMD, namely Biological and Chemical Weapons.

We would like to commend the successful BWC Review Conference in December of last year. The positive outcome of this review conference and the constructive discussions that took place in the BWC inter-sessional meetings between 2003 and 2005 are pertinent to directing our common efforts and should not be wasted.

We also place high hope on the decisions taken during that meeting, among others, the convening of an inter-sessional meeting and the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit (ISU).

The inter-sessional meeting would serve as a forum to share experiences among experts, national officials, and other organizations in implementing the convention nationally and tackling the threat of use of these terrible weapons. It is important to ensure that the next inter-sessional process follows on with equal success.

Indonesia welcomes and appreciates the establishment of the ISU of the Convention. We certainly hope that the ISU will assist Member States in implementing and further strengthening the Convention, in accordance with its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that these productive results should contribute to further strengthening of the convention. It is our firm conviction that the Convention can only be reinforced through a multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument which encompasses all of its aspects in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

At the same time, Indonesia also believes that our endeavour to strengthen the convention should not hamper the rights of each member state to benefit from the development of biological agents for peaceful purposes. Furthermore, we believe that state parties should foster all forms of international cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of biological agents, including capacity building and combating infectious disease.
Mr. Chairman,

Let me now turn to the Chemical Weapons.

We have just commemorated the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and of the creation of the OPCW. The entry into force of the Convention marked a success for mankind in almost a century searching for consensus over a need to ban the use, development, production, acquisition and transfer of chemical weapons.

The Chemical Weapons Convention envisages the total and verifiable elimination of all chemical weapons stockpile and production facilities. Thus, for the first time in history, one category of weapon of mass destruction is banned in absolute terms.

We attach great importance to the idea that the chemical weapons destruction should remain the highest priority. It is in everyone’s concern that the existence of stockpiles of chemical weapons constitutes and will always remain a serious threat to international peace and security. We are determined to continue our efforts to contribute to the attainment of the object and purpose of the Convention.

Though we have proudly set out unprecedented achievements, we have yet to face the challenges ahead. Five of the six possessors have requested and have been granted extension in the destruction deadlines. So far, only one third of the overall chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed. The fulfilment of target times as set forth by the Convention will not only examine the political will of the States Parties concerned but also poses a direct challenge to the integrity and credibility of this regime. Therefore, the two major possessors should accomplish the destruction process by April 2012 as the maximum permissible time.

As required by the Convention, all States Parties are required to establish and reinforce the administrative and legislative measures. In this context, for the last five years, Indonesia has submitted its annual past declaration for schedule-3 chemicals and has been under on-site inspections by the OPCW. As part of a legislative measure, we are now at the final stage of concluding a draft law on the national implementation of the CWC.

We also stress the importance of economic and technological development and reaffirm the undertakings of the state parties to foster international cooperation and assistance of peaceful uses of chemicals as guaranteed by the Convention.

The elimination of chemical weapons has been more advanced than similar attempts in the nuclear and biological field. The implementation and verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention has been undertaken in a prompt and thorough manner. It is in our view that the OPCW could set example for the future OPBW.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.