Statement
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Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

At the First Committee Thematic Debate on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

16 October 2017
Mr. Chair,

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Indonesia attaches foremost importance to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Convention. We believe that the instruments are important components of the international security architecture.

As a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC), we believe that the Chemical Weapons Convention remains the most effective instrument in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Indonesia is firmly committed to the full and effective implementation of its obligations under the Convention.

To share our current progress in this area, the Indonesian Government recently established National Authority on the CWC through the enactment of Presidential Decree Number 19 Year 2017. The Board consists of relevant stakeholders that work in conjunction to serve, plan, enforce, observe and evaluate the use of chemical substances for peaceful purposes. The National Authority will also work to enhance cooperation with International Organizations and States Parties of the Convention, particularly in assistance and cooperation, which are the most important elements within the pillars of the convention.

Mr. Chair,

The realization of the objectives and goals of the Convention hinges on the commitment of its States Parties to implement all the provisions under the Convention. While noting the progress of chemical weapons by possessor States, Indonesia views that all States Parties to the CWC should fulfil their obligations in accordance with the provision of the Convention, without further delay.
Recalling that universalization of the Convention will significantly lower the risk of proliferation and use of chemical weapons by both State and non-State actors, Indonesia also calls upon all States Not Party to the Convention to join without delay or precondition. We need to be mindful that the goals and objectives of the Convention can only be fully realized once universality of the Convention is achieved.

On this occasion, we would like to also convey to you that Indonesia wishes to join the Executive Council in 2018 – 2020 and we seek the support of member states here today for our candidature.

Mr. Chair,

Indonesia shares the interests amongst States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC) to strengthen the Convention.

We are concerned that the 8th BWC Review Conference, in November 2016 in Geneva, failed to produce a substantive outcome, especially on the intersessional process of the review cycle of BWC. The intersessional process is a crucial part of an overall effort to strengthen the implementation of the Convention, and thus the upcoming Meeting of States Parties (MSP), on 4-8 December 2017 in Geneva, will seek to make progress on issues of substance and process for the period before the next Review Conference. Indonesia is committed to work closely with other States Parties for the successful commencement of the MSP 2017.

Mr. Chair,
The absence of verification regime under the BWC remains a source of concern. Indonesia calls for the development of verification mechanism under the BWC framework.

Indonesia is keen to strengthen this Convention to preserve the internal cohesion within BWC, and for that purpose we need to ensure that all initiatives to strengthen the BWC should be established on BWC-based agreed modalities. Any degree of preclusion toward any of BWC’s own modalities, and establishment of linkages toward external instruments, where such instruments are created by process outside the BWC, would certainly create unnecessary polarities within the BWC membership. It is our duty to prevent that from happening, as it would hamper the effectiveness of this Convention.

Another key area of the BWC that needs to be strengthened is international cooperation and assistance and exchanges in toxins, biological agent equipment and technology for peaceful purposes without any discrimination. In this regard, Article X of the Convention recalls that States Parties have a legal obligation to facilitate and have the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins for peaceful purposes and not to hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.