



# REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!**

## STATEMENT

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FIRST COMMITTEE  
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Mr. Chairman,

The Bulgarian delegation congratulates you and the members of the Bureau on your election. We look forward to working with you and stand ready to support your efforts to ensure a productive and successful outcome of this year's session of the First Committee.

Bulgaria associates itself fully with the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the European Union. I will not repeat the views expressed in it, which my country entirely shares, but would just like to further highlight a few points.

First and foremost, Bulgaria places great value on the work of multilateral mechanisms in the sphere of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. As one of the six presidents (P6) of the Conference on Disarmament in 2010, Bulgaria will spare no effort in promoting and supporting the shared goal of getting this very important forum for negotiations back to work. The adoption of the Comprehensive Program of Work on May 29<sup>th</sup> this year was a big step forward to overcome the 12-year deadlock. We share the feelings of those who regret the fact that the implementation of the Program has not started yet. As one of the P6 in 2010 we shall strive to ensure regained momentum within the CD and early commencement of substantive work.

We are equally committed to further strengthening the international treaty system both by enlarging the current normative basis and by ensuring effective and full implementation of the existing instruments, as well as their universalisation. The full and universal implementation of the NPT is, and must remain, a priority. Bulgaria is committed to the strengthening of all three pillars of the Treaty and to a successful 2010 Review Conference. The CTBT – another crucial tool to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation – needs to enter into force as early as possible as well as to have its verification regime completed without delay. A treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons is an instrument which is long overdue. With that in mind, we join those previous speakers who have voiced an appeal to all members of the CD to engage constructively in negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty as soon as the Conference resumes its work in January 2010.

In the fight against the proliferation of WMD, the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention are rightfully considered to be of key importance. As the 2011 BTWC Review Conference approaches, Bulgaria

would like to add its voice to those who recognise the importance of developing a compliance verification mechanism and stands ready to contribute to future efforts in this direction.

Bulgaria attaches great importance to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols. On several occasions we have reiterated our support for this key instrument of the International Humanitarian Law and have expressed determination to contribute to its universalisation and strict implementation. Bulgaria took active part in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) within the CCW dealing with cluster munitions. In search of consensus on a new legally binding instrument on cluster munitions, the Group continued its deliberations in 2009. We believe that consensus within the GGE is an achievable task. Furthermore, in our view, this consensus should be generated around a Protocol on cluster munitions which is compatible with the Convention on Cluster Munitions signed in Oslo last December.

Small arms and light weapons (SALW) have been rightfully defined as the “new weapons of mass destruction”. Statistics show that annually more than half a million deaths are caused by SALW. An effective tool to combat the spread and accumulation of this type of weapons is the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects. Bulgaria fully supports the goal to strengthen the implementation of the Program and stands ready to contribute to a successful biannual meeting in 2010.

In the same line of thought, Bulgaria is committed to the negotiation and subsequent adoption of a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty. As we have pointed out on several occasions, including the last year’s session of the First Committee, the demand for such an instrument is strong both on the side of civil society and on the side of most states. Our country took part in the first two sessions in 2009 of the Open-ended Working Group. We are determined to pursue our engagement within this Group and hope that the end product of its deliberations will be an international legally binding instrument setting the highest possible standards with regard to the export, import and transfer of conventional arms.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.