

## **Madame Chair,**

Whereas I take floor for the first time, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment and to assure you of the full support of my delegation. The Czech Republic fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union later, thus I will limit my intervention to few remarks on the elements that are of special importance to us in the Biological Weapons Convention.

- The Czech Republic considers the compliance assessment as an important instrument to enhance transparency and confidence building among the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention. Therefore, the Czech Republic participated in the first phase of the compliance assessment project together with Canada and Switzerland.
- Our submission demonstrated that the self- assessment of the national legislation, with an active engagement of relevant national authorities, is also a credible way of conducting the process. Our common goal is to strive to attract more States Parties to the project. Based on a positive experience from the pilot phase, we are ready to continue in our efforts. (support to Canada statement)
- Last September, we were very pleased to welcome you, Madame Chair, in the Czech Republic and to share with you our experience in implementation of the BWC. During your stay, you paid a visit to the National Institute for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection in the Czech Republic, the leading institute for the research and development in the field of protection against chemical, biological and radioactive agents and in the area of

technical support for verification of the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons. Its laboratories are internationally accredited for detection and analysis of highly toxic agents and are part of the facilities implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention.

- The Czech republic welcome the progress in the process of revision of the Confidence-building Measures (CBMs) submission achieved during the last Meeting of Experts in August, with the view of its adoption at the 2016 Review Conference
- The Czech Republic fully supports your approach, Madame Chair, to steer the Meeting and to optimize our working methods. We believe that the final report should be result-oriented and focused for the preparation of the Eighth Review Conference.

Thank you, Madame Chair