Mr. Chairman,

The commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical weapons constitutes a solid foundation for international peace and security. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has served as a primary multilateral instrument, embodying an unprecedented mechanism.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to stress the importance that the Republic of Korea attaches to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), to the comprehensive nature of the prohibition of chemical weapons, and to the obligation to destroy existing stockpiles as well as production capacities within the agreed time limits. My delegation believes that the destruction of existing stocks on one hand, and the prevention of future development, production and stockpiling on the other hand represent not only a multilateral commitment, but also a contribution to the fight against terrorism.

The Republic of Korea, since its accession to the CWC in 1997, has successfully implemented its obligations under the Convention, while cooperating with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Considering what we have been able to accomplish, my delegation believes that the establishment of an effective and reliable global verification system is critical at the moment for strengthening the main objective of the Convention, the prevention of the use of chemical weapons.

My delegation recognizes that with its 184 States Parties, the CWC has come close to universal membership, and, therefore, I call on those states that have not yet acceded to this instrument to do so without further delay. Universality is one of the main factors that will contribute to the achievement of the worthy objectives of the Convention. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has fully implemented its obligation under the Convention and supported the activities of the OPCW, having confidence in those activities that will serve as a vital catalyst for achieving the objectives of the Convention and its universality.
The OPCW has succeeded in effectively carrying out the functions entrusted to it under the terms of the Convention. The Republic of Korea has worked for the achievement of the Convention's objectives and will continue to do so in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now turn to the Biological Weapons Convention. With advances made in biotechnology as well as its widespread availability, there is a greater risk that proliferators, both states and non-states, might take advantage of the loopholes associated with the dual use of biological agents and toxins, materials, equipment, and knowledge. This requires us to take a multifaceted approach under the multilateral regime. In this context, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) remains the fundamental legal and normative foundation of our collective endeavors to prohibit and prevent the use of biological and bio-toxic weapons.

The Review Conference in November 2006 provided us with a solid basis to further pursue our endeavors to strengthen the Convention not only by adopting a final declaration for the first time in ten years, but also by agreeing upon measures to strengthen the Convention. The continuation of the inter-sessional process, the launch of the ISU (Implementation Support Unit), and the adoption of the universalization action plan are some of the main achievements worthy of recognition.

The first inter-sessional work program which commenced last year clearly demonstrated the will of the international community to strengthen the implementation of the Convention. It provided States Parties with a valuable opportunity to share their experiences in implementing the Convention at the national level and cooperating at the regional and sub-regional levels. My delegation believes that an effective execution of national and sub-national legislative measures is the core obligation under the Convention. Indeed, regional and sub-regional activities also play a significant role in supporting the BWC's implementation.

This year, we are holding the second session of the inter-sessional work programs under two separate themes: “Biosafety and Biosecurity” and “Oversight, Education, Awareness raising and Code of conduct”. The successful Meeting of Expert held last August reaffirmed the will of States Parties to build further momentum. My delegation believes that the themes were pertinent and closely linked.

The Republic of Korea, since its accession to the Convention in 1987, has attached ever greater importance to enacting effective legislation and establishing a comprehensive national regulatory regime in order to comply with the prohibition and prevention requirements of the BWC. In addition to these governmental endeavors, it is worth noting the academic and the industrial community’s growing awareness of BWC-related self-regulation measures. My delegation expects those concerted efforts from various sectors of the Korean society to contribute to the rise in favorable public opinion of the BWC.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea would like to reconfirm its unwavering commitment to the implementation of its obligations and duties under the Convention. Let me conclude my statement by expressing my sincere wish to build further momentum to make further progress at the 7th Review Conference in 2011 by successfully executing the inter-sessional work program.

Thank you.