Mr. Chairperson,

Let me congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the 2020 Meeting of States Parties to the BWC. I also appreciate the arrangements made for convening this meeting as it could not take place last year due to the extraordinary situation posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I assure you my delegation’s full support towards the successful conclusion of this meeting.

Nepal aligns itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM members who are States Parties to the BWC.

BWC is a first multilateral disarmament treaty addressing the issues of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Nepal is a party to the BWC, CWC and NPT and the host to the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific.

Nepal has never been involved in production, acquisition or use of biological and toxin weapons nor do we possess any facility whatsoever to develop, produce acquire or transfer any kind of weapons of mass destruction.

Nepal reaffirms its principled position that the universal peace and security can only be ensured through the time-bound, general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction.

We are committed to implementing the international treaties and conventions to which the country is a party.

Mr. Chair

Nepal supports the universalization and effective implementation of the provisions in the BWC.
At the same time, we recognize the importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for adopting a legally binding Protocol dealing with all Articles of the Convention, in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

A universal, non-discriminatory, and legally binding mechanism to tackle the issue of biological threats is the urgency of the time. Moreover, the lack of verification mechanism has posed challenges towards the effective implementation of the Convention.

**Mr. Chair**

Nepal takes note of various efforts carried out to promote the universalization of the convention. We also appreciate the conduct of workshops and seminars to raise awareness of the convention and its implementation with the participation of national governments and other relevant stakeholders. We commend the role played by state parties, UNODA and Implementation support unit for such initiatives.

The national authority for the implementation of BWC has already been in place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, and we have also developed legislative measures for implementation of the provisions of the Convention. We are making our sincere efforts for the implementation of the Convention at the national level. Regular consultations are underway with the concerned stakeholders and the implementing agencies in pursuing a national legislation.

Some state parties in particular the least developed countries lack adequate technical and financial resources to fulfill their reporting obligations. International cooperation to strengthen the institutional capacity, including the capacity building support is critical to strengthen their capability in implementing international disarmament related mechanisms. Hence, we underscore the need of enhanced international cooperation and assistance to strengthening national capacities of the state parties, in their efforts towards the implementation of the Convention.

**Mr. Chair,**

The rapid advances in the biotechnology and life sciences have brought tremendous opportunities but also huge challenges as well. Our efforts should be directed in utilizing such achievements for the peaceful purposes and for advancement of human welfare such as vaccine development to make them readily available.
To conclude, Nepal reiterates its unflinching commitment towards the implementation of the Convention and calls for the general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you.