Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you, for assuming the Chairpersonship of 2020 Meeting of States Parties (MSP) to the BWC. We are very grateful for your devoted leadership during this challenging time and for making this Meeting finally taking place, after one year’s postponement.

Please rest assured of Indonesia’s full support and cooperation to your chairmanship.

We also thank the Implementation Support Unit for their tireless work and instrumental support extended to the Presidency and delegates for this meeting.

My delegation welcomes the successful convening of the BWC Meeting of Experts (MXs) held this year in Geneva. Indonesia believes that the MXs contribute significantly to increasing substantial understanding of all articles of the Convention and fostering its effective implementation.

We therefore commend the Chair of the five MXs for their excellent work in leading the substantive discussion on respective issue.

Mr. Chair,

Indonesia associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement delivered by the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan.

In its national capacity, Indonesia would like to reiterate its long-standing position on the work of the BWC.
First, we reaffirm our support for the establishment of the legally binding Protocol covering all aspect of the Convention, including verification mechanism. We continue to believe that creating such mechanism is still relevant. Verification mechanism has played essential role in other weapons of mass destruction regimes; the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), so we believe it will also contribute to strengthening the implementation of this Convention.

Second, we attach great importance on strengthening international cooperation and assistance under the Convention. We need an effective mechanism for cooperation and assistance, to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article X, especially in narrowing the existing gaps of resources, level of development, and technological capacity.

If anything, the COVID-19 pandemic has showed the weakness in implementation of Article X. We definitively need to focus on strengthening international cooperation and assistance to ensure all States Parties, particularly developing States, have access to equipment, materials and scientific and technological information relevant to the Convention.

Third, Indonesia firmly believes that while strengthening the Convention, we need to also preserve the internal cohesion within BWC. We are of the view that any initiative to strengthen the Convention should be based on agreed modalities under the Convention and aimed at improving and making the implementation of the BWC more effectively.

To conclude, it is our strong hope that the MSP will produce a meaningful and substantive outcome in the lead up of 9th BWC Review Conference. Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the existing gaps and weaknesses in all sectors of life, including in our work within BWC. It is therefore high time for the Convention to demonstrate its relevance.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.