Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair,

Let me begin by expressing our profound appreciation to you and Mr. Florian Antohi, for your excellent work in stewarding the preparatory works for the 9th Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.

Please rest assured of Indonesia’s full support in the preparation of this Review Conference.

Let me also thank the Implementation Support Unit for their tireless work and instrumental support.

Mr. Vice Chair

We acknowledge the continuing challenge in identifying the President for the 9th Review Conference, which, of course, has affected our preparatory works. But, please rest assured of our full support to the future President in discharging his/her mandate.

On the other hand, we also recognize and welcome the substantive progress we had so far, such as the six working papers submitted by member states and the five background information documents prepared by the ISU.

Mr. Vice-Chair,

Indonesia associates itself with the Nam statement to be delivered by the distinguished representative of Azerbaijan ASEAN statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Cambodia. And in my national capacity, I would like to add few things.
First, we reaffirm our support for the establishment of the legally binding Protocol covering all aspect of the Convention, including verification mechanism. Creating such mechanism is becoming relevant than ever, bearing in mind the current complex security environment. 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 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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has showed the weakness in implementation of Article X. We therefore 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 hope that this PrepCom will produce a meaningful outcome in the lead up of 9th BWC Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.