

**Workshop: The BWC Supporting Global Health
Oslo, 18-19 June 2009**

Intervention by the Head of the Delegation of Brazil,
HE Ambassador Sergio Eduardo Moreira Lima

I would like to thank the Government of Norway for hosting this Workshop and for inviting Brazil to participate in the discussions.

As part of the core group of countries that, with Norway, in a Foreign Ministers' Meeting in 2007, launched the Initiative on Foreign Policy and Global Health, Brazil is committed to raising awareness and to developing innovative mechanisms to help solve global issues related to health that have direct impact on economic and social development.

Another important area of our partnership with Norway also relates to health and the development agenda, specifically in the struggle to advance the attainment of the Millenium Development Goals nrs. 4 and 5 (reduced maternal and infant mortality) in the developing world.

Brazil sees this exercise as an integral part of those important efforts.

I would also like to address the point raised earlier by Ms Devina Naidoo, of natural occurring diseases being the greatest threat to global health. The threat of bioterrorism does exist and it is no longer a problem that concerns only developed countries. However, whatever the country, natural occurring diseases are still the greatest threat and this is why Brazil prioritizes the international discussion of health issues, viewed through the lens of social economics and aiming towards a development and humanitarian approach.

Therefore we attach great significance to cooperation and to the exchange of information and technology in health and security areas, such as forensics investigation, research, vaccine and medicine production, among others. To attain this purpose, compliance to Article X of the Biological Weapons Convention is important and necessary.