

Liberia Report

For and on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia permit me to extend heartfelt African brotherly greetings to the Parliamentary for Global Action (PGA) for convening the PGA Regional Africa Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in our sisterly country of Sierra Leone on the one hand, and equally so to the government and people of Sierra Leone for providing this unique enabling environment and hospitality to convene our meeting. Perhaps those of you don't know RL and SL are not only good neighbors but, have so much in common.

Since the PGA meeting in Dar as salaam, Tanzania in April of 2016 where Liberia attention was drawn to the issue of Biological Weapon Convention (BTWC), we immediately upon our return to the Republic of Liberia, embarked on a vigorous campaign, We engaged all of the major stakeholders especially the Executive and the Legislative branch about the Biological Weapon Convention and the security implications not only for Liberia but, also for the sub region and the world at large. I am pleased to inform you that on 05, October 2016, Liberia deposited a ratified copy of the Biological Weapon Convention through the Liberian Ambassador accredited to the United States of America.

Also worth noting and in furtherance thereof, the Liberia Government also ratified the Cluster Munition Convention in June 2016. Like the Biological Weapon Convention, the CMC languished at both houses for a protractive period but I am pleased to inform the PGA and this gathering that the Cluster Munition Convention has now been ratified by both house of the Legislature.

The Liberian Government working with the Economic Community of West Africa and in partnership with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)/ International Human Right Law had a review meeting from the last week of June-July 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria on IHL implementation in West Africa. I headed the Liberia delegation and we did inform the Global Parliamentary Action about the outcome. All directed at creating a peaceful world order and the role of countries of West African was highlighted and made clearer.

All of this could not have been possible without the collective effort of the Liberia Government, which is headed by president her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, current chair of authority of head of states of ECOWAS.

As chair of ECOWAS, the Republic of Liberia came under the lime light and as such we had to set the pace for other to follow and the onus was upon us to ensure we adhere to all of ECOWAS protocols and conventions that are consistent with the laws of the Republic of Liberia. As I speak to you, my country has signed on to all of ECOWAS protocols.

In furtherance also on 14, February 2017 at about 13:40GMT, the Liberian Senate concurred with the House of Representative reference senate endorsement to the houses engrossed Bill # 61 Entitle:

An act to amend the new penal law, title 26 of the Liberian codes of laws revised, chapter 14. Offenses involving danger to the person, sub-chapter c, kidnapping and related offenses; by repealing section 14.54, terrorism; chapter 15 offenses against property, sub-chapter g. proceeds of crime, money laundering and terrorist financing, section 15.4. Terrorist financing, and replacing it with a new section 14.55 entitle offenses involving TERRORIST ACTS.