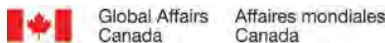


**PGA REGIONAL AFRICA WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BTWC)**

*With the Kind Support of*



*Parliament House*

*Freetown, Sierra Leone*

*27-28 March, 2017*

**FREETOWN PLAN OF ACTION**

*Mindful* of the grave dangers posed to our respective countries and peoples by the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, including Biological and Toxin Weapons

*Alarmed* at the growing evidence in the past few years that certain Non State Groups including terrorist organizations in Africa, including Boko Haram and Al Shabaab, may be seeking to acquire, develop, use or manufacture biological and toxin weapons

*Recognizing* the importance of achieving universality and national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in our respective countries as well as other international instruments that also seek to counter the proliferation of Biological Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, including UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), and UN Security Council Resolution 2325 (2016)

*Determined*, as lawmakers and advocates, to take steps that are necessary to promote improved, as appropriate universality and national implementation of the BWC in our respective countries as well as improved national implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), and UN Security Council Resolution 2325 (2016)

**We, PGA Members of Parliament from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Guinea, Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania, hereby undertake to:**

1. *Encourage* our respective Governments, as appropriate, to ratify and robustly implement the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention;
2. *Encourage* our respective Governments to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), and UN Security Council Resolution 2325 (2016);
3. *Encourage* our respective Governments to meet their reporting requirements under all instruments, as appropriate;
4. *Raise the matter* in relevant Parliamentary Committee Meetings, Plenary Sessions and in communications with relevant Government Ministries, as appropriate;
5. *Explore the possibility* of drafting and introducing new legislation to facilitate improved implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and UNSCR 1540 (2004), and UN Security Council Resolution 2325 (2016), in consultation and with the cooperation of PGA, as appropriate;
6. *Undertake* to keep PGA informed within 3 months from the end of this Workshop of what steps we have taken, pursuant to this Plan of Action;
7. *Extend* our sincere appreciation to the Parliament of Sierra Leone for their hospitality in hosting this important Workshop, which seeks to create a safer, more secure and more peaceful Africa for us all.

*Done this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2017 in Freetown*

