

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR SELMA ASHIPALA-MUSAVYI,
PERMANENT SECRETARY: MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE
PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA) REGIONAL AFRICA
WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE UNIVERSALITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**

18 SEPTEMBER 2018

DAR-ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Hon. Members of Parliament,
UNDP Country Director,
Moderator of our proceedings,
Ladies and gentlemen

I feel honoured to deliver remarks on Namibia's current position and perspectives on the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

I will deliver the following remarks on behalf of Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, who could not be here today, because of other equally important national commitments. She has, however, extended her warm greetings to you all, and wishes this meeting success.

As indicated in the invitation to this Workshop, we are meeting at a time when there is growing evidence emerging that certain terrorist organizations, including in several regions in Africa, are seeking to acquire and use, not only Small Arms and Light Weapons, but also - and alarmingly - Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) - including Biological Weapons.

This is, therefore, the right time to promote the universality and implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Namibia subscribes to the principles of disarmament and arms control, with the goal of promoting international peace and security. The country premises its position on the principle that arms control, whereas necessary and indispensable to international peace and security, does not become a means to deprive developing countries of accessing advanced technologies required for sustainable development.

Namibia has worked for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions related to nuclear disarmament, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Being a State signatory to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Namibia is fully committed to the objectives set out in the Treaty. The Treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities.

Namibia signed the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CWC) in 1993, and deposited its instruments of ratification in 1997, and is fully committed to the implementation of all relevant UN resolutions, in this regard.

Namibia has supported the various resolutions in the First Committee, in support of the Biological Weapons Convention. As a Member of the Non-Aligned Movement, we share the view of the Movement that considered that, the lack of a verification system remained a challenge to the effectiveness of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), an important component of the international legal architecture related to Weapons of Mass Destruction. We further support the resumption of multilateral negotiations for a non-discriminatory, legally-binding Protocol on all articles of the Convention, in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

Although, Namibia has not yet signed the Biological Weapons Convention, preparations are underway to join the family of friends who have already signed and ratified this Convention.

Disarmament is every body's business, whether small or big states, women and youth, civil society or the private sector. We all have a responsibility to advocate and work for disarmament, being it biological or conventional. In doing so, it is important to emphasize that, multilateralism is the only guarantee to real and lasting disarmament. In this context, I wish to commend the UN Secretary General for his recently released Agenda on Disarmament. We commend him particularly for having provided a clear link between disarmament and the SDGs, and also how the youth can play a role through science and technology for mankind.

The time to advocate for atoms for peace through the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Convention is now, and workshops such as this one are an effective platform.

We therefore thank the organizers for bringing us together.

I thank you.