

PGA WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE THE ROLE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN AFRICA

IN PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

16-17 May, 2019

BANJUL 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 operating in Africa, may be seeking to acquire, develop, use or manufacture Weapons of Mass Destruction, including Biological Weapons;

Recognizing the importance of achieving universality and national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in our respective countries as well as the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004);

Mindful of the critical importance of promoting greater engagement by Women Parliamentarians in upholding international peace and security, including preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, as highlighted in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and Reports of the UN Secretary-General;

Mindful also of the central role played by Parliamentarians in implementation of United Nations Security Resolution 1540 (2004), as expressly acknowledged in United Nations 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);

We, Members of Parliament from across Africa hereby undertake to:

1. *Encourage* our colleagues and Parliamentary leadership to engage Women Parliamentarians more fully in issues of national, regional and international security;
2. *Encourage also* our respective Governments, as appropriate, to ratify and robustly implement the Biological Weapons Convention;
3. *Urge* our respective Governments to fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004);
4. *Urge also* our respective Governments to meet their reporting requirements under both international frameworks, as appropriate;
5. *Raise* the subject matter of this Workshop in relevant Parliamentary Committee Meetings, Plenary Sessions and in communications with relevant Government Ministries, and/or prepare and introduce Parliamentary Resolutions, Motions, Orders and/or Bills that promote the objectives of this Workshop, as appropriate;
6. *Explore the possibility* of drafting and introducing new legislation to facilitate improved implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and UNSCR 1540 (2004), as appropriate;
7. *Express appreciation* to all other participants in this Workshop for providing their insights, expertise and guidance;
8. *Express our intention* to keep PGA informed within 6 months from the end of this Workshop of what steps we have been able to take, pursuant to this Plan of Action;
9. *Extend our sincere appreciation* to the National Assembly of The Gambia for their hospitality in facilitating the organization of this Workshop, which seeks to create a safer, more secure and more peaceful Africa and world for us all.

Done this 17th Day of May, 2019 in Banjul