



**REMARKS BY HON. EMILIA NUYOMA
ON THE OCCASION OF REGIONAL AFRICA
WORKSHOP ON PROMOTING THE ROLE OF
WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN
PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)
BANJUL, THE GAMBIA**

16 MAY 2019

Hon. Margareta Cederfelt, President of Parliamentarians for Global Action,
Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly of The Gambia,
The High Commissioner of United Kingdom to The Gambia,
Head of the EU Delegation to The Gambia,
UN Resident Coordinator in The Gambia
Fellow Members of Parliament,
All Protocol Observed

It is indeed an honour to attend this very important Workshop On promoting the Role of Women Parliamentarians in Africa in Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Banjul.

The United Nation Security Resolution 1540 is the central pillar that calls on Member States to implement national, regional and international measures to combat and prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The resolution 1540 focuses on the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Weapons that are government by their respective convention, treaty and protocols. The text of resolution 1540 inter-alia states the following;

"2S/RES/1540 (2004) welcoming efforts in this context by multilateral arrangements which contribute to non-proliferation ,Affirming that prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes while goals of peaceful utilization should not be used as a cover for

proliferation, Gravely concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors such as those identified in the United Nations list established and maintained by the Committee established under Security Council resolution 1267 and those to whom resolution 1373 applies, may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, Gravely concerned by the threat of illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, and related materials, which adds a new dimension to the issue of proliferation of such weapons and also poses a threat to international peace and security, Recognizing the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, sub regional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security, Recognizing that most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties, or have made other commitments aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and have taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials, such as those required by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and those recommended by the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, Recognizing further the urgent need for all States to take additional effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, Encouraging all Member States to implement fully the disarmament treaties and agreements to which they are party, Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Determined to facilitate henceforth an effective response to global threats in the area of non-proliferation, Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,¹ Decides that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery;² Decides also that all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for 3S/RES/1540 (2004) terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them.....”

However, the different international instrument does not prohibit the use of these resource for peaceful purposes such for medical, scientific, educational etc.

Namibia, and in particular the Ministry of Defence act as a focal point to implement measures that will prevent the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by acceding or ratifying the international instruments. In this regard, the Ministry submitted various international instruments to the office of the Attorney General seeking clearance certificates to proceed with the process of ratifying the international instrument that lays down the foundation to prevention the proliferation of WMD.

Presently, Namibia is a State Parties to the following legal instrument; the instruments are part of the measures that

Government of Namibia have taken to prevent the proliferation of WMD.

1. The Non-Proliferation Treaty
2. The Chemical Weapons Convention
3. The Pelindaba Treaty – established the Africa Nuclear Free-Zone Area
4. Convention for Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism
5. Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
6. Chemical weapons convention
7. UNSCR 1540
8. Convention on nuclear safety
9. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Despite the above-mentioned legislation, there are other outstanding international instruments that Namibia intend ratifying, such as the Biological Weapons Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty. The importance of these international instrument they provide platform that State Parties share practices, experiences and information for the domestication and enforcement of the instruments at national levels.

At the national level, the Ministry of Defence engages other neighbouring countries at diplomatic, military and technical level for peaceful application of materials that may be transformed into WMD's.

At the international level, the Ministry of Defence participate at various level of the African Union, the SADC, UN as well as at inter-governmental forums to dialogue on disarmament and non-

proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destructions. Through Namibia diplomatic missions around the world, our diplomatic partake at forums on disarmament and build capacity in preventative diplomatic strategies.

National legislation for the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: The Namibian Government have enacted a legislation to domesticate various international instruments such as;

Act No. 4, 2014 PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORIST AND PROLIFERATION ACTIVITIES ACT, 2014 provides for the offences of terrorism and proliferation and other offences connected or associated with terrorist or proliferation activities; to provide for measures to prevent and combat terrorist and proliferation activities; to provide for measures to give effect to the international conventions, Security Council Resolutions, instruments and best practices concerning measures to combat terrorist and proliferation activities; to provide for measures to prevent and combat the funding of terrorist and proliferation activities; to provide for investigative measures concerning terrorist and proliferation activities; to provide for measures to proscribe persons and organisations that conduct terrorist and proliferation activities; and to provide for incidental matters. (Signed by the President on 20 June 2014)

Hon. Margareta Cederfelt, Fellow Members of Parliament,

These are the interventions of the Republic of Namibia to contribute to the global fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you for your kind attention.