



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

PGA REGIONAL AFRICAN WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE BIOLOGICAL SECURITY

9-10 May, 2022

PLAN OF ACTION OF DAR-ES-SALAAM

Extending our sincere appreciation to Hon. Dr. Pindi Chana, MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania, PGA Member and to Hon. Jasson Rweikiza, MP, Chair of PGA National Group, Tanzania, as well as to Global Affairs Canada for facilitating and supporting this important Workshop, which seeks to create a safer, more secure and more peaceful Africa for us all;

Expressing appreciation to all other participants in this Workshop, whether from International Organizations, Governments, or other stakeholders, for providing their insights, expertise and guidance;

Taking Note, With Approval, of the announcement by the Delegation of Namibia at this Regional Workshop that Namibia has submitted its Instrument of Accession to the Biological Weapons Convention on February 10th 2022;

Taking note, also, of the important progress made on the adoption of Biological Weapons Convention implementing legislation in Zimbabwe;

Aware of the grave impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on societies, and of the risk that Non-State Actors worldwide, including terrorist organizations operating in Africa, may be seeking to acquire, develop, use or manufacture pathogenic agents.

Welcoming the Launch of the Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa, taking into account also new and elevated such threats arising from the Covid-19 pandemic;

Looking forward to engaging further, as Parliamentarians, in the implementation of this timely Initiative;

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;

Recognizing the importance of achieving universality and national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), recognizing as well their positive contribution to wider public health goals in our respective countries;

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 and Government Officials from Comoros, the ECOWAS Regional Parliament, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe, participating in this Regional Workshop, hereby undertake to:

1. *Encourage* our respective Governments, as appropriate, to ratify and implement the Biological Weapons Convention as well as to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004);
2. *Encourage also* enhanced cooperation and consultation in this arena between the legislative and executive branches of government within our respective countries;
3. *Encourage* our respective Governments to meet reporting stipulations and requirements under both frameworks, and also to make requests for assistance, as appropriate;
4. *Explore the possibility* of drafting new legislation or reviewing existing legislation to improve implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and UNSCR 1540 (2004), in consultation with PGA, as appropriate;
5. *Express our intention* to keep PGA informed within six months from the end of this Workshop of what steps we have taken, or intend to take, pursuant to this Plan of Action;
6. *Encourage* advancements towards a more peaceful and sustainable Africa;
7. *Also encourage* PGA and other interested parties to mobilize financial resources to sustain activities and assist parliamentarians.

Done this 10th Day of May, 2022 in Dar-es-Salaam