

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**Statement by Hon. Hamunyera Hambyuka
Member of Parliament**

**On the Occasion of the Parliamentarians For Global Action
Regional African Workshop**

“Promoting Biological Security”

Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

9-10 May 2022

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Hon. Julia Ackerson, Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT),

Honourable Members of Parliaments,

Your Excellency, Mr. Zlatan Milisic – UN Resident Coordinator to URT

Your Excellency, Ambassador Manfredo Fanti, Head of European Union Delegation to URT

Your Excellency, Pamela O'Donnell, High Commissioner of Canada to URT

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the onset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting this important Regional Workshop for Africa, and for the hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Dar Es Salaam.

I also extend a word of gratitude to the Leadership of the Parliamentarians for Global Action for the invitation extended to the Republic of Namibia, and to the Government of Canada and Global Affairs Canada for their support towards the holding of this Workshop.

Hon. Speaker,

From the first Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) detected in 2003, to the current SARS coronavirus (COVID) pandemic, global viral or disease outbreaks have taught us how vulnerable human beings are to health insecurities. A viral threat to any country in the world, is a threat to the world at large, as interconnectedness and the movement of persons have rapidly increased over the years.

As the UN Secretary General has stated, the current pandemic has highlighted the risk of bioterrorism. Greater cooperation in biological security is therefore important to enhance global health surveillance. The prohibition of the development, acquisition, manufacturing, possession, transfer and use of biological and chemical weapons must be enhanced to ensure the safety of our global community.

Hon. Speaker,

Namibia aspires to sustainable development in a democratic world, which operates in a rules-based international order that promotes peace and security, for all peoples. As such, on the 10th of February 2022, the Republic of Namibia submitted its instrument of accession to the Biological Weapon Convention to the Government of United

Kingdom as one of the depository Governments. Our aim is to be part of the global multilateral framework to enhance cooperation in addressing threats of biological weapons.

Our country is now in the process of domesticating the BWC. In this regard, our Government will seek the appropriate support from the Secretariat of the BWC and the international community at large, to enable us to implement the Convention.

Namibia will remain actively engaged and committed to the ideals of the Convention, and our participation in this Workshop is a demonstration of that. Let us keep in mind that pandemics and gaps in the implementation of the Convention will increase the danger for all of us. Therefore, we must avoid unnecessary politicization of these issues and be guided by scientific facts and not emotion to ensure the safety of mankind.

Hon. Speaker,

This Workshop has come at an opportune time and it will indeed strengthen collaboration at the national, regional and international levels, as we strive to collectively promote biological security.

I thank you.
