



**TALKING POINTS FOR HONOURABLE KINDNESS PARADZA,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION, PUBLICITY, AND
BROADCASTING SERVICES AT THE REGIONAL
PARLIAMENTARY WORKSHOP TO PROMOTE BIOLOGICAL
SECURITY: TANZANIA;**

9-10 MAY 2022

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Salutations,

1. **Firstly let me, on behalf of my delegation express our** gratitude for the invitation to attend the Regional Parliamentary Workshop to promote biological security and thank the organisers and the host for the warm hospitality and for the well organised event.
2. **I want to highlight** that Zimbabwe is an advocate of the total and complete elimination of all biological and chemical weapons as the only absolute guarantee against their use, or threat of use.
3. **And let me Inform all** that Zimbabwe aligns herself with noble calls for total disarmament and unconditional ban of such weapons, having witnessed the terrible effects of these weapons during the war of liberation during the 1970's when Rhodesian forces used biological weapons to eliminate freedom fighters within Zimbabwe, as well as in neighbouring countries.
4. You may be interested to know that Zimbabwe ratified the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) in 1990, and is currently in the process of domesticating the Convention. The proposed bill will prohibit the development, production, manufacture, possession, stockpiling, other acquisition or retention importation, exportation re-exportation, transportation, transit, trans-shipment, transfer or use of certain biological agents and toxins of biological weapons.
5. **Let me also state** that Zimbabwe is party to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which it domesticated

into national law in 1998. Furthermore Zimbabwe has over the years, joined the international community's call on major possessor States to take every necessary measure to ensure the completion of destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles in the shortest possible time.

6. **The Zimbabwean Government calls on** all countries to desist from importing, manufacturing, stockpiling, retention and exporting biological agents and toxins of biological weapons.
7. **My Government Condemns** in the strongest sense, the use of biological weapons as weapons of war due to their unselective application and use, which indiscriminately affect all living things in their wake, which is against the laws of nature and international law on armed conflicts.
8. **We Regret** the absence of an implementation or enforcement body of the BTWC, which has seen its violation by some countries in the past.
9. **We Encourage** efforts to negotiate a verification protocol to strengthen the BTWC's lack of provisions for an international mechanism to monitor compliance.
10. **We, however acknowledge** the difficulties in creating a verification regime for the BTWC which include, the potential/ability by any state with a developed pharmaceutical industry to create biological weapons, and the emergence of non-state actors who make it difficult to develop effective verification measures.
11. **But at the same time we want to encourage** the continued implementation of the new format of nine (9) confidence building measures to improve international cooperation in the field of peaceful bacteriological activities as enunciated in the Biological Weapons Convention.
12. **In Conclusion my Government condemns** the politicisation of both the BTWC and CWC, and call for greater international cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the two Conventions.

13. **Lastly, I want to express** Zimbabwe's strong commitment towards its international obligations under the two Conventions.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade