

BUILDING STAKEHOLDERSHIP IN SUPPORT  
OF MALAWI'S RATIFICATION OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS  
CONVENTION  
5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008, LILONGWE

***RELEVANCY OF THE BTWC  
REGIME:***

***WHY ZAMBIA ACCEDED TO  
THE CONVENTION***

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# Contents

- Zambia's views regarding international peace and security
- Process of Zambia's accession to the BTWC
- Expectations and way forward

# Zambia's views regarding international peace and security

- Zambia has been for many years a proponent of the pursuit for international peace and security
- Believes in the elimination of weapons of mass destruction
- Evidenced by Zambia being party to various international agreements that ban the use of these weapons
- These include the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Non-Proliferation Treaty, etc

## Zambia's views regarding international peace and security cont'd...

- Developing countries are generally not producers or possessors of weapons of mass destruction
- Well aware of the fact that peaceful countries could be 'safe havens' for terrorists
- Therefore supports international efforts aimed at eliminating WMD and making sure they do not fall into the 'wrong hands'

# Process of Zambia's accession to the BTWC

- Zambia began the accession process a few years back, but it had stalled mostly due to bureaucracy
- Process was rejuvenated in 2006 but suffered another setback due to dissolution of Parliament and Cabinet as it was an election year
- Cabinet finally approved the Memorandum by Ministry of Foreign Affairs that recommended Zambia's accession to the Convention in 2007

## Process of Zambia's accession to the BTWC cont'd...

- Process ordinarily should not take more than a month, initiating Ministry sends CabMemo to other Ministries for comment with 2-week deadline for responses. Legislation process done subsequent to Cabinet approval.
- Subsequently, Zambia's Instrument of Accession was deposited with the British Government in 2008

# Expectations and the way forward

- Zambia will need to look at taking appropriate measures domestically following accession to the BTWC
- This information shall be forwarded to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs as requested by Member States during past Review Conferences
- Assistance in carrying out implementation programmes has been pledged by the European Union

# Expectations and way forward cont'd...

- Zambia wishes to take full advantage of being part of the Convention, which includes being in a position to cooperate with other States Parties in the fields of bacteriology-essential in the prevention of diseases
- Also wishes to benefit from the exchange of equipment, as well as scientific and technological information relevant to the promotion of the peaceful uses of bacteriological agents

# Expectations and way forward cont'd...

- These benefits are some of the driving forces for joining the Convention
- Looks forward to the continued strengthening of the BTWC regime as this will be of great benefit to the Member States, especially with regards to verification and the monitoring of compliance to the Convention
- This is very important especially in view of the current rapid progress globally in biotechnology which has led to increased concern about the danger biological warfare

# Expectations and way forward cont'd...

- Zambia further looks forward to working with institutions such as the BioWeapons Prevention Project, Institute for Security Studies and others in building capacity to ensure that the implementation process is undertaken as efficiently as possible

I thank you!

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