

CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. LEVI MVULA, DELIVERED AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON BUILDING STAKEHOLDERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF MALAWI'S RATIFICATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION, HELD ON 5TH JUNE 2008 AT CRESTA HOTEL, LILONGWE, MALAWI.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the organizers we wish to thank you for the wonderful workshop that we just had today. We are very pleased that the workshop has been very fruitful and so many issues of our interest emerged from the floor.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are grateful for the time spent on the issues that were on the table for discussions. At this point we want to thank the experts who ably tackled the topics. I am pretty sure that many of us are going home fully aware of this convention and very much determined to ensure that we put all our heads working with government to ensure that the convention is ratified and effectively implemented.

For the participants, we just want to thank you for your active participation. Your coming to this workshop has shown commitment to the purpose of this convention. We hope that we will stay in touch on the subject as the workshop marks the beginning of a long process. As you go back home, we wish you a safe trip.

We also wish to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute of Security Studies and the BioWeapon Prevention Project. It has been a wonderful experience working with you all in organising this workshop. I believe that the experience of working together proves that we can always work together to do great things. We look forward to the growth of this partnership.

Finally, we want to thank the Royal Norwegian Embassy for funding the workshop and all the related cost. The fruits of this workshop will go down in history as the first steps that were taken in many years to ensure that the convention is ratified. I hope that we will continue working together. We also want to thank you for tonight's reception; it is the best way to mark the end of the workshop.

Thank you very much.