



Republic of Zambia

**INTERVENTION STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
HER EXCELLENCY, MRS. EUNICE M.T.
LUAMBIA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA, AT THE NINTH
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION REVIEW
CONFERENCE**

Geneva, 28 November to 16 December, 2022.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Mr. President, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Zambia, allow me to join other speakers before me in congratulating you, Ambassador Leonardo Bencini, the Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament, on your assumption of the presidency of the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention. My delegation is confident that you will effectively and successfully guide our deliberations given your rich experience in multilateral diplomacy and disarmament. Mr. President, you may count on the Zambian delegation's full support and cooperation for a successful outcome of the deliberations.

Mr. President,

It is a great honour and privilege to have this opportunity to address this Ninth Review Conference.

I wish to begin by aligning my statement to the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr President,

The Government of the Republic of Zambia recognises the importance that the achievement of the objectives set out in the Biological Weapons Convention will contribute to attaining global peace and security by prohibiting development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of Biological and Toxin Weapons. The

Zambian Government, in this regard, remains fully committed to the implementation of the Convention.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

This Conference is being held at a time after the entire world suffered from the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on families and communities. This Convention must find sustainable ways to enhance international cooperation and create access to technology for low-income countries and assist them to enhance their abilities and capacities to respond to biological threats and diseases. It is therefore imperative that our work during the coming three weeks, enables us to strengthen the institutional framework of the BWC.

My delegation is of the firm belief that the BWC ought to respond to the fast-changing developments in the biological sphere and in this case must develop initiatives or be proactive and not merely reactive to both the useful and hostile uses of biology. To attain this, a review of the Convention as it stands, is of vital importance. The entire world is looking to us all to ensure that we make the Convention fit for purpose and to ensure the effective realization of the Convention's goals and to take into account any new scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention, in accordance with Article XII. We must strive to have a forward-looking document at the end of our Review Conference.

Mr. President,

On the issue of Universalisation, there are thirteen (13) States not party to the Convention to date. At the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs BWC Press Conference, which was held on 25th November 2022, my

delegation was encouraged to hear that some of the States not party to the Convention have made strides towards joining and that for some, the process of joining is well advanced. My delegation would like to urge States not party to the BWC, to hasten their processes. Zambia believes that a strengthened BWC through complete universalisation of the Convention is vital to attaining the BWC's goals.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Zambia's commitment to ban biological and toxin weapons by prohibiting their development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use.

My best wishes to all for a successful conference.

I thank you all for your kind attention.