



Check against delivery

**Statement Mr. Elias Jaime Zimba,
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to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations In Geneva**

**Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on
the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of
Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction
(BWC)**

Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor

Mr. President,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me at the outset express on behalf of the Mozambican delegation, the warmest congratulations to you, Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel, upon your election to the post of President of the VII Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC).

Your election to this prestigious post reflects our common recognition of your outstanding qualities as a skillful diplomat. Your professional credentials lead us to feel confident and comfortable on the successful outcome of our deliberations. In this regard let me cite your words of wisdom during the preparatory work of the Review Conference: I quote "I am committed to working closely with all States Parties in a transparent, inclusive and constructive manner in order to secure a positive outcome at the Review Conference." End of quotation. This statement reflects the sense of pragmatism and realism that typifies the kind of leadership you believe in.

Mr. President,

As we sit here to assess the implementation of the Convention and shape it in accordance with the demands of the present and future challenges, we are mindful of the fact that the task before us is enormous and complex. It requires from all of us a spirit of openness, frankness and of compromise.

We are reminded that we propose ourselves to assess new scientific and technological developments pertinent to the implementation of the Convention, to check on the progress made in the implementation of obligations and evaluate the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the Sixth Review Conference, among others.

We are cognizant of the fact that the current review conference takes place at a moment characterized by astonishing scientific progress in biological science and technology. Nevertheless, these benefits for humanity which can be applied for advances in the fields of medicine, health, agriculture and environment, were accompanied by a pernicious (between quotations) "by-product." Today, we realize beyond reasonable doubt that it is becoming increasingly and relatively easy to access this technologies compared to those required to manufacture other weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear and chemical weapons.

This poses a formidable risk to mankind and set in a potential threat to international peace, security and stability as it raises the possibility for biological weapons to fall in the hands of non-state forces.

I case of the occurrence of an incident involving the use of bacteriological weapons in a warfare scenario or in a context of terrorist actions, Africa would stand the most vulnerable continent and the least prepared to cope with their dreadful impact.

Mozambique wishes to join those States that expressed their conviction that the possibility of the use of bacteriological (biological) weapons shall be totally excluded. Needless to say that acting otherwise would result in a disaster of disproportional consequences and which would be tremendously repugnant to the conscience of making – citing from the words of the preamble of the Convention.

We are glad to note that the global realization of this potential threat, gradually led to more understanding and to more optimism in the negotiations that annually take place in the framework of the efforts to strengthen the operation of the Convention. This approach lent its contribution to the creation of the current momentum, of which my delegation believes we ought to take advantage and seek to attain tangible progress from the ongoing Review Conference.

All states are potentially at risk; therefore, all states should share the burden of struggling against the proliferation of bacteriological (Biological) weapons.

Obviously, Mozambique never produced or processes (biological) bacteriological weapons and has no intention of acquiring them in the future. Therefore, we stand in a better position to comply with most of the basic provisions of the Convention. We do not possess agents, toxins, weapons, equipment or means of delivery as prohibited by Article I of the Convention.

After long and thorough considerations we reached the conclusion that it was high time Mozambique joined the Convention. We ratified the Convention in March, 2011. We adhere to any efforts for international disarmament in fulfillment of an explicit provision in the Constitution of the Country.

We believe that the Convention encloses a built in mechanism that ensure it continues to evolve over the time. Hence, we believe the improvement on its weakness and the promotion of its strengths are more dependent on the virtue of joining the Convention, they are more dependent on the role of the States Parties, on their involvement, and they are much less dependent on the comfort of staying on the sidelines.

As a peace loving State, Mozambique cherish the existing regimes of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and for that matter recognizes the existing

complementary between this Convention and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Actually, the ratification of the BWC allowed us to close the cycle of ratifications of the three fundamental pillars that uphold international efforts against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, thus complying with the United Nations resolution 1540 (2004).

We strongly believe that success on the operation of the Convention rest to large extent on the effective compliance, verification, and on comprehensive and effective universalization.

In average two States Parties ratified the Convention each year since the last Review Conference in 1986. On one hand, this improvement reflects the growing importance of the Convention. On the other hand, it demonstrates the level of commitment by states Parties to engage in more vigorous actions aimed at promoting the universal membership to the Convention.

In addition we note with satisfaction that the provisions of article 6, 7 and 13 have never been evoked which proves that the Convention rest upon strong foundations, it is viable and futuristic.

It was against this background that the ratification of the Convention by my country came into fruition. My government wishes to seize this opportunity to thank the support and encouragement received from the depositary States and from other States Parties to join the Convention. Equally we thank the different Presidents of the inter-session meetings and of the Review Conferences.

Our thanks are also extensive to the Implementation Support Unit for all the assistance provided to Mozambique. We intend to work closely with ISU as we move on the implementation of the Convention. Together with ISU we will work for establishment of a focal point in Mozambique.

I wish to grasp this opportunity to express Mozambique support to the proposal made by South Africa with regard to the budget approach of ISU.

We also intend to cooperate with other States Parties at regional level with a view to benefit from their best practices in the implementation of the convention.

My delegation would like to register its recognition of the role being played by WHO (World Health Organization), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), OIE (World Organization for animal health) and IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention), within their respective mandates with regard to the operation of the Convention and promotion of international cooperation for peaceful purposes.

Mozambique is of the view that the implementation of article X should be strengthened to give way to consensus on practical steps for the promotion of an effective international cooperation on the implementation of various critical aspects of the Convention, including the facilitation of economic and technological development. For this purpose we also accord appropriate significance to the impact likely to be generated by South-South Cooperation.

We also hold the view that everything should be done to discourage the exploration of loopholes in the cooperation in the field of peaceful biological activities to pursue objectives that are contrary to the spirit and the letter of the Convention.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Mozambique I wish to reiterate the commitment of Mozambique to the implementation of Convention. Mozambique believes in the future of BWC and regards it as a collective expression by the international community of its determination to staunchly seek adequate responses, through multilateral negotiations, to the threat against humanity posed by the potential use of bacteriological(Biological) and toxins weapons.

I wish to pledge our collaboration and cooperation in the conduct of our deliberations and wish you success as you steer the work of this Review Conference to a successful end.

I thank you.

Geneva, 5 December 2011