Challenges to Ratification – Pacific Context

- National priorities or lack thereof; relevancy
- Red tapes, lengthy process, across Ministries
- Transparency; Parliament & Ordinary MP’s are not aware
- Pacific approx. – relax approach, no deliberate delays
- Biological Weapons Convention has little to do with Pacific Island Countries
- Pacific Island Countries are members of the UN family, all affected by C/Change, need to understand the politics
- Important to get the right people involved, officials or Ministers (whoever is most appropriate)
Gains of Regional Workshops

- Effective in promoting ratification – state parties discuss/influence non-state parties
- Raise profile that may help alter priorities
- Dialogue with the right people
- Hear concerns at National level that others may be better placed to assist
- Expedite universalisation and national implementation
- Forum Secretariat to update the Leaders (Conventions haven’t signed)
- High Level Compliance
- BWC is the cornerstone of the multilateral disarmament regime, workshops revisited key issues that are important for the knowledge of States Parties
Next Step

- ISU Experts in partnership with two countries who have acceded to the Convention to conduct National Consultation in the three countries that have yet to ratify the Convention (FSM, Kiribati and Tuvalu)
- Donor funding to ISU would be needed for this regional approach.
- PIFS Leaders Meeting & Biosecurity Forum
A Case of Fiji

• First State Party to have signed and ratified the Convention on 01 January 1973 prior to its entering into force in March 1975.

• Two National and Regional Workshops 2017 & 2018

• Revisit and update the forum of the progress of the domestication of the Convention through Fiji’s ‘Biological and Toxin Weapons Decree 2011’ gazetted on Friday 6th May 2011.

• Continue to advocate and champion universalisation across the Pacific
Framework for Fiji’s BWC

- Domestication of the proposed BWC framework
- Existing Group called MATAG (Multi-Agency Taskforce Advisory Group, chaired by MoH), in case it becomes a biological threat, then MOD will take a lead role.
- Counselling activities, visits to families, NGO to empower citizens affected and detect preliminary instances.
- Cooperation with Research/Development Units (Tertiary Institutions – Research and Scientific Advise)
- Also have the National Security Council – consider the threat level, declare State of Emergency
- National Authority (MOD) also links to BWC ISU through MoFA in terms of reporting and advise.

Issues to be addressed
- Confidence Building Mechanism (CBM) and Reporting
- Working papers on the subject for recognition of our progress on BWC
THANK YOU