BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION (BWC)

NATIONAL BWC WORKSHOP,
TANOA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,
12th December 2018
CONTENT

- History of Fiji – BWC
- Why is the BWC important to us?
- FIJI’S National Implementation of the Convention
- Challenges
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History of Fiji - BWC

- The BWC is the mainstay of the multilateral disarmament regime and its objective is to rid the world of biological and toxin weapons.


- The Convention effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, retention, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons and is a key element in the international community’s efforts to address the proliferation of weapons.
Why is BWC important to us?

- Of the three (3) regimes of weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, chemical and biological, it is the last one that is most potent, accessible and the weakest regime in the global efforts to prohibit and prevent.
- Diseases caused by such weapons would not confine themselves to national borders and could spread rapidly around the world.
Fiji National Implementation of the BWC

- Biological and Toxin Weapons Decree 2011
Proposed Framework for BWC

Proposed Framework for Fiji’s BW

**NATIONAL AUTHORITY**
- Biological & Toxic Weapons Convention
- Annual Report obligation to BWC
- Enforcement of Biological & Toxic Weapons Decree 2011
- Member of the MALTAG
- National Assessment/Advice to NSC
- Coordinate National Response
- Bilateral Cooperation under the BWC Convention
- Liaise with BWC for inspection and declaration

**RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT**
- Research and Development
- Specialised Training in line with the BWC
- Mitigation strategy
- Scientific Advice in consultation with MoH
- SOP for Treatment
- Bacteria sample containment
- Toxicology testing
- Confirmatory tests (DNA)
- Bacteriology Risk Analysis

**NATIONAL SECURITY**
- State’s declaration of Emergency in terms of Bio Terrorism
- Unmanageable epidemic outbreak at national level
- Public Disorder on the use of Pathogens & Toxic agents
- National interests on Bacteriology and chemical

**GOVT SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS**
- Collection of Samples
- Appropriate Advice to Authorities
- Liaison with BWC ISU for technical assistance
- Containment Strategy
- Initial Response
- Surveillance

**Multi-Agency Taskforce Advisory Group (MATAG)**
(MoH, MoD, SPC, WHO, FPF, RFMF, MoFA, FRCA, BAF)

**NATIONAL SECURITY Council**

**BWC ISU MoFA**

**Ministry of Defence**

**Min of Health**
Bacteriological Lab

**Research/Scientific Advice**
Fiji National University

**Detection/Mitigation/Response**

**BORDER DETECTION/MITIGATION/CONTAINMENT**
- Initial Response
- Deployment of resources
- Quarantine/Treatment
- Monitoring/Surveillance
- Implementation of SOP/WHO referrals
- Technical Assistance under the BWC
- Maintenance of isolated rooms for special cases
- Biosecurity Authority of Fiji – Bio Terrorism

**Counselling of Victims**

- Trauma Counselling of victims
- Family visitation/counselling
- Empowerment of Civilian on prelim symptoms and refer to MATAG for advice
Challenges

- Harmonize all relevant Agencies and Legislations
- Capacity – Border Strengthening
- Institutional Strengthening
Way Forward

- Establish a Working Committee to Harmonize the Agencies and Legislations in relation to BWC
- Strengthening Border Agencies
- Inter-Agency Cooperation
- Political Will
- Holistic Government Approach
Vinaka