Accession to the BWC - Vanuatu’s Experience

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Treaties Process of ratification for Vanuatu

- The stakeholder will have to conduct at least two national consultations with Foreign Affairs
- A policy paper is developed
- DCO or Committee of Directors and Director Generals meet to consider the Policy Paper or Council of Ministers’ Paper
- Council of Minister considers and if approves
- AG drafts draft Bill
- Parliament debates and if accepts, passes the bill
- Once bill is assented, it is gazetted
- Treaties Division then prepares Instrument of Ratification, Accession etc...
How Vanuatu became party to the Biological Weapons Convention

- Vanuatu succeeded to the BWC by way of UK Laws being a former condominium of England and France
- There was no records of Vanuatu being a party to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
- We were only made aware through our Mission in New York that UK was the Depository and we were required to deposit our instrument of accession to formalise the process
- Vanuatu only became a party to the BWC last year after depositing its instrument of accession
Status of Biological weapons in Vanuatu

- Vanuatu does not produce any conventional weapons including biological weapons (CWC, BWC, CBTO, NYPT and ATT)
- Vanuatu does not import or export biological weapons
- We have issues with the trafficking of arms within our EEZ but that is a challenge that most small island states continue to face
- We will continue to request Technical assistance with regards to capacity building and also in domestication of these Conventions into our national legislations
CHALLENGES and Reporting to the BWC

- It is very hard to report to UN on the BWC especially to the lack of such weapons in our shores.
- We hope that this workshop will help us as parties to the convention to report to the BWC even if it’s a NIL report.
- Our immediate stakeholders such as Police, Customs Officials, Biosecurity Officers will need more national capabilities of BWC implementation and for that we will continue to seek TA from our Donor Partners.
Conclusion

- I would like to end my presentation with this:
- “How long will it take for Syria and the big shots to continue this debate, and what is there for us if we don’t stand united, it will be only a matter of time, let’s hope that US, Russia, Germany, Japan and other countries resolve the long term operation to detonate these weapons of mass destruction before it is too late for all of us”
- Our generation, our land, and shores are at stake!
- We must stand together as a global community to fight this together or divided we will fall!