

Information Note¹

- Event:** Visit to Malawi, at the request of its Government, to assist with the drafting of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan
- Organizer:** Government of Malawi in cooperation with the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)
- Date and venue:** 20-22 May 2015, Lilongwe, Malawi
- Participants:** Government of Malawi, 1540 Committee Experts, UNREC

1. Objectives for the participation of 1540 Committee Experts

The objectives of the participation of the 1540 Committee Experts in the meeting included supporting Malawi's drafting of its voluntary National Implementation Action Plan, raising awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among relevant national stakeholders, analysing the implementation of the resolution in Malawi, and to facilitate a gap analysis and follow-up on its assistance requests.

2. Background

Resolution 1977 (2011) encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation. Also, the resolution encourages all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans (NAP), with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate. Since the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), the 1540 Group of Experts have interacted with States to assist them with the drafting of such plans, including Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Niger.

Through a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Malawi, addressed to the Chair of the Committee, dated 10 March 2015, a formal request was made to the Committee to assist Malawi to develop a NAP.

The request follows the successful visit by the Committee and its Experts to Malawi in August 2014. Following this visit, Malawi submitted its first 1540 national report.

3. Highlights and discussions

The meeting was moderated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, whilst the 1540 Committee Experts acted as facilitators of the discussions and the drafting of the NAP.

¹ For information - not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

Besides drafting a NAP, the objectives of the workshop included informing the national stakeholders of the 1540 obligations, conducting a dialogue on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) that included an analysis of Malawi's 1540 matrix, and, where possible, updating the information in this matrix and discussing follow-up to the 1540 assistance offered to Malawi.

National governmental stakeholders included the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Office of President and Cabinet, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining - Department of Environment, Ministry of Lands, Malawi Defence Force, National Intelligence Bureau, Police Service, Department of Disaster, Reserve Bank of Malawi, Financial Intelligence Unit, Department of Immigration, Malawi Revenue Authority, Malawi Bureau of Standards, College of Medicine, Chancellor College, Mzuzu University, and the Malawi University of Science and Technology.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. George T. Chaponda, M.P., made an opening statement wherein he expressed the appreciation of the Government for the assistance the 1540 Committee provided to Malawi with its implementation of the resolution. He also referred to the challenges of Malawi's implementation efforts, including porous borders, the need of a comprehensive legislation on terrorism, and human and technical capacity needs. He referred to the NAP as a crucial element in domesticating the implementation of the resolution that is indicative of Malawi's commitment to its full implementation.

The 1540 Committee Experts made the following presentations:

- Briefing on 1540 obligations
- Analysis of the 1540 matrix of Malawi
- Overview of 1540 assistance offers made to Malawi
- Overview of 1540 voluntary National Implementation Action Plans

An in-depth analysis was undertaken of Malawi's 1540 matrix, which informed the identification of actions Malawi may wish to consider in the next five years to enhance its implementation of the resolution.

The draft NAP identifies a number of actions to be undertaken until 2020 in terms of identified priority areas in operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 7 of resolution 1540 (2004).

4. **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.