

Information Note¹

- Event:** 1540 Committee visit to Burkina Faso, at the invitation of its Government
- Organizers:** Government of Burkina Faso
- Date and venue:** 11-15 November 2013, Burkina Faso
- Participants:** Presidency of the Republic; Prime Ministry (including the High Authority on Arms Import and Use- *Haute Autorité de contrôle des importations d'armes et de leur utilisation* - HACIAU); National Assembly; Ministry of National Defense; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation (including the two national points of contact for resolution 1540); Ministry of Economy and Finance; Ministry of Territorial Administration and Security (including the General Directorate of National Police); Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry of Mines and Energy; Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Higher Education and Research (including the Technical Secretariat of the National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention – SPANCAC); Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (including Nuclear Safety Regulatory Body (*Autorité nationale de radioprotection et de la sûreté nucléaire* – ARSN).

International, regional and sub-regional organizations: 1540 Committee (Ms. Sophie Nzeyimana (Rwanda) as representative of the Committee; two experts); United Nations Information Center (UNIC); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

1. Objectives

- Raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among relevant national stakeholders.
- Analyze the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Facilitate gap analysis and identification of assistance needs.
- Discuss future steps by Burkina Faso, including the submission of an additional report and the option of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan.

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.

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

The visit to Burkina Faso was the eighth conducted by the 1540 Committee since the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), after visits to Albania, Grenada, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.

The invitation evolved from a bilateral consultation in the margins of the workshop held in Dakar on 5-6 September 2013 (<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/pdf/Information%20Note%20Dakar%20CPPNM%20Workshop%202013-38.pdf>), which resumed a process initiated with the former delegate of Burkina Faso in the 1540 Committee.

The programme was prepared by the Government of Burkina Faso, in liaison with the 1540 Committee experts.

In their preparation of the visit, the 1540 Committee experts benefited from briefings and materials from various partners, in particular the UN Secretariat (UN DPA – Africa Desk), the UN Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), CTED, the IAEA, the OPCW, BWC-ISU, UNODC, and the 1267 Committee Panel of Experts.

3. **Highlights**

The mission to Burkina Faso included site visits:

- in Ouagadougou, to the CTBTO (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization) National Data Centre and to the Nuclear Medicine Unit of the Yalgado Ouedraogo hospital;
- in Bobo-Dioulasso, to the Health Sciences Research Institute, to the International Centre of Research and Development on livestock living in semi-humid zones, and to the Pan African Project for the eradication of the tsetse fly.

The Government of Burkina Faso demonstrated its commitment to the success of the visit, devoting significant human and financial resources to support the success of the mission.

As a result of the discussions, the participating authorities agreed on the need to draft a National Implementation Action Plan, and proposed to establish a working group to this end.

The visit was widely covered in the national media (newspapers and National TV).

3.1 Consultations with high level authorities

The delegation was received by Ambassador Amadou Dicko, Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation.

3.2 Opening ceremony

During the opening session the Secretary-General *a.i.* of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, Ambassador Firmin Grégoire N'Do welcomed the 1540 delegation. He indicated that this visit took place during a particular challenging time in the

Sahel. He also highlighted the importance of international technical assistance to improve his State's capacity to implement resolution 1540 (2004).

Ms. Sophie Nzeyimana (Rwanda) delivered a statement on behalf of the Committee (hyperlink to be inserted).

3.3 Working sessions with national stakeholders

Presentations by the 1540 Committee experts

The 1540 Committee experts made presentations on:

- Resolution 1540 (2004), nonproliferation and development instrument;
- Resolution 1540 (2004), international cooperation instrument;
- Assistance and the role of the 1540 Committee for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- The 1540 Matrix (Burkina Faso);
- The role of industry and the private sector in implementing resolution 1540 (2004);
- National Implementation Action Plans.

Thematic discussions

Overview of implementation of resolution 1540 on the basis of the Matrix

The presentation by the 1540 Committee experts on the Burkina Faso matrix referred among others to new pieces of legislation adopted by Burkina Faso since the presentation of its first report in 2005. In this regard, mention was made of Law 060-2009/AN regarding the repression of acts of terrorism, which includes references to the use of nuclear materials and dangerous substances and to Law 061-2009/AN regarding the countering of terrorism financing.

The National Authority of Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety (ARSN) briefed the participants on its main tasks.

A presentation on the role and capacity of the technical and scientific police in the chemical, biological, radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) field was made by a representative of the National Police.

A presentation was made by the Technical Secretariat of the National Authority for the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Proliferation financing

The 1540 delegation had a consultation with the National Financial Information Processing Unit, in its offices, in presence of the whole team.

Coordination mechanism

The participants agreed on the necessity to draft a National Implementation Action Plan, and proposed to establish a working group to this end. They also agreed on the necessity to establish an inter-agency coordination mechanism, which will be in charge of monitoring and facilitating the overall implementation of the National Implementation Action Plan and of resolution 1540 (2004) in all its aspects.

Private sector, industry and civil society

A discussion was held on the role of the private sector, industry and the civil society in the context of resolution 1540 (2004).

International cooperation

The 1540 Committee experts delivered a presentation on the role of international, regional and sub-regional organizations in support of States implementing resolution 1540 (2004). The experts highlighted efforts and achievements on the African continent, briefing participants on the role played by the African Union and the UN Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC).

3.4 On-site visits

CTBT National Data Center

The 1540 Committee delegation and the national stakeholders visited the National Data Center established in the framework of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). The delegation also visited the Transportable Xenon Laboratory, which is used to measure xenon gases used in the detection of nuclear weapons tests..

Nuclear Medicine Unit of the Yalgado Ouédraogo hospital

The delegation visited the nuclear medical section of the *Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Yalgado Ouédraogo*. The delegation was briefed about the procedures in place in the cancer scanner chamber. The hospital authorities indicated that they worked in close cooperation with the IAEA.

Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)

The 1540 delegation visited the installations of the PATTEC. This campaign which was launched following a decision by an African Union Summit held in 2000 to eradicate the tsetse fly, which is present in 37 States in the continent. The African Development Bank (ADB) collaborates and supports the PATTEC initiative. Six countries have been selected to participate

in the first phase of the programme, namely Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali and Uganda.

The delegation visited the facilities for this project, and was briefed about the safety and security measures.

International Centre of Research and Development on livestock living in semi-humid zones (CIRDES)

The delegation visited the CIRDES, a research institution with a sub-regional scope, launched in the context of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

The delegation observed *in situ* different measures implemented to physically secure the source used for the irradiation of insects.

Health Sciences Research Institute (IRSS)

The delegation visited IRSS, which is one of the four technical departments of the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST) of Burkina Faso. Established in 1997, IRSS focuses on health issues, coordinating research activities in Burkina Faso in this area. The research teams presented the various fields of expertise in the institute, underscoring the many benefits derived from international partnerships.

4. Additional comments

For further information, please contact Burkina Faso's National Focal Points (<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/national-points-of-contact.shtml>) or the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.