

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

<b>Event:</b>	Visit to the Republic of the Congo, at its invitation, to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)
<b>Organizer:</b>	Government of the Republic of the Congo
<b>Date and Venue:</b>	18-21 June 2012, Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo
<b>Participants:</b>	Republic of the Congo officials (Presidency of the Republic; Parliament; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; Ministry of Industrial Development; Ministry of Hydrocarbon; Ministry of Finances and Budget; Ministry of Transportation, Civil Aviation and Shipping; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Mining activities and Geology; Ministry of National Defense; Ministry of Commerce; Ministry of Economy, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Congo to the United Nations) and two 1540 Committee experts

### 1. **Objectives**

- Raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among relevant national stakeholders;
- Conduct dialogue on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in all relevant areas, to facilitate gap analysis and identification of assistance needs;
- Discuss future steps by the Republic of the Congo towards full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the submission of a first report and the option of a voluntary national action plan.

### 2. **Background**

- The Security Council 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 (resolution 1977, operative paragraph 11);
- The Republic of the Congo decided to invite the 1540 Committee to a visit to Brazzaville, to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the submission of a first report and technical assistance.

### 3. **Highlights**

The opening and closing sessions of the visit were held under the authority of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The 1540 Committee experts met with high level authorities, had extensive working sessions with national stakeholders, and conducted on-site visits.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

### 3.1 Consultations with high level authorities

The 1540 Committee experts discussed the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with several members of the Government and high-level officials involved in the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The 1540 Committee experts met with:

- The Minister of Industrial Development and Promotion of the Private Sector, Mr Rodolphe Adada;
- The Minister of Interior, Mr Raymond Zéphyrin Mboulou;
- The Minister of Defense, Mr Charles Zacharie Bowao.

The 1540 Committee experts also met with:

- High-level officials in the ministry of Mining activities and Geology;
- The Director-General for Customs.

### 3.2 Working sessions with national stakeholders

The meetings with the national stakeholders were chaired by the Deputy-Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and facilitated by the Adviser for strategic affairs to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The 1540 Committee experts delivered several presentations on key aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), to raise awareness of the resolution among national stakeholders and facilitate discussions on possible next steps towards its full implementation. Topics covered by the presentations include:

- Background information on the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) and on the role of the 1540 Committee and its experts;
- Key obligations stemming from resolution 1540 (2004);
- National implementation, capacity-building and assistance mechanisms;
- Reports to the Committee and voluntary national action plans;
- Implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States and the 1540 Committee Matrix.

The national stakeholders shared detailed information on the current status of implementation of the resolution and on existing challenges.

### 3.3 On-site visits

The 1540 Committee experts visited the Mpila site, in Brazzaville, where a fire in the ammunitions depot and a series of explosions on 4 March 2012 tragically resulted in many deaths and injured victims, devastating surrounding buildings and houses. The 1540 Committee experts recalled to their host the sympathy words from the 1540 Committee Chairman at the Joint Briefing to the Security Council on 10 May 2012, and expressed their own sympathy. A representative of the Ministry of Defense expressed the gratitude of the Republic of the Congo for the assistance delivered by key international partners, including the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the civil society (in particular MAG – Mines Advisory Group).

The 1540 Committee experts visited the National Data Center established in Brazzaville in the framework of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), which became operational in October 2010

## 4. Outcome

The discussions led to the identification, by the national stakeholders, of possible steps towards the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by the Republic of the Congo.

5. **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).