

Information Note¹

- Event:** A visit to support the authorities of the Republic of Mali to draft a first national report on implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
- Organizer:** Hosted by the Government of Mali in co-operation with the 1540 Committee and supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and Venue:** 17-19 October 2018 – Bamako, Mali
- Participants:** 1540 Committee Group of Experts, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), national officials

Background

UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) requires States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. All States are obliged to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws prohibiting such activities by non-State actors on their territories. States must also take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery, and establish controls over related material.

Resolution 1540 (2004) also calls upon States to submit a first report on the steps they have taken, or intend to take, to implement the resolution. In resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council once again called upon all non-reporting States to submit their first national report without delay. To date, 12 Member States have yet to submit their first national report, including Mali.

In 2014, Mali participated in a special workshop in Libreville, Gabon dedicated to non-reporting francophone African States. In a letter dated 4 July 2018, the authorities of Mali requested the support of the 1540 Committee to organise a workshop dedicated to helping them draft their first national report. Dates for this workshop were confirmed for 18-19 October 2018.

Highlights

On the first day of the workshop, a 1540 Expert gave the opening statement, emphasising that resolution 1540 (2004) is very clear about the obligations of States to implement measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. He also recalled that the Security Council requested all UN Member States in resolution 1540 (2004) to file their first report to the Committee within six months after adoption of the

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resolution in 2004, and that the Council again repeated this request in subsequent resolutions, including most recently resolution 2325, which it adopted in 2016. He stressed that this workshop was therefore timely and welcome. The 1540 Expert additionally called on Mali to appoint a national Point of Contact to the 1540 Committee, and to consider drafting a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan once they had successfully submitted their first report on national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) to the Committee.

The participants then heard a welcoming statement from the Secretary General of the Ministry of Internal Security and Civil Protection, Mr Aser Kamate. Mr Kamate welcomed the experts and stressed that Mali understood that they were obligated to prepare and submit their first report to the 1540 Committee.

A 1540 Expert then gave a general presentation on resolution 1540 (2004). He covered the elements of a first report; the global context of resolution 1540 (2004); key elements of the resolution; obligations under the resolution and other aspects such as national control lists, collaboration with industry and the public, the first report, assistance, and voluntary National Implementation Action Plans; the role of the 1540 Committee; and resolution 2325 (2016). The participants asked a number of questions regarding resolution 1540 (2004) and the first report, which the 1540 Experts and the UNREC representative addressed.

After the question and answer session, a 1540 Expert gave a general presentation on the 1540 matrix and the experts then proceeded to discuss Mali's official matrix line by line. The experts later presented on the elements of a first report and showed the participants examples of neighbouring francophone countries' first reports, which ranged from table format to narrative or a combination thereof.

On the second day of the workshop, after the morning's deliberations, it was agreed by the participants that a committee would gather inputs from relevant stakeholders, add their inputs and then submit this to the Permanent Secretariat for the Fight Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which would in turn finalise the first report for submission to the Government and onward submission to the 1540 Committee once approved. In their closing remarks, the 1540 Experts underlined that they remained available for any additional assistance in preparing the first report and welcomed its submission to the 1540 Committee by mid-December if possible.

Additional Comments

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