

Information Note¹

- Events:** Regional Workshop to Promote the Universalization of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)
- Organizers:** Hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Government of Zimbabwe
- Date and Venue:** 28-31 March 2023, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- Participants:** *Government representatives from regional States:*
Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
International representatives:
IAEA, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICISIS)
1540 Committee Expert

Background

In a letter dated 18 January 2023, the Director for the Division of Nuclear Security at the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) informed the Chair of the Committee about a regional workshop that will be convened by the IAEA in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 28 to 31 March 2023. According to the IAEA, the purpose of the event was to promote adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment and to support implementation through an exchange of views and experiences of States in the region. The letter (see S/AC.44/2023/NOTE.11 of 2 February 2023) invited the 1540 Committee to nominate an expert to participate in the workshop and deliver presentations on “UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): Key obligations with specific reference to nuclear security measures” and the “1540 Committee assistance mechanism”, as well as to participate in a Panel discussion on “The Importance and Benefits of Joining and Fully Implementing the A/CPPNM and Other Legal Instruments in the Area of Nuclear Security”. While the event would focus on the universalisation and implementation of the A/CPPNM, the agenda also included presentations related to resolution 1540 (2004) and the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

This workshop was of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) as follows:

- In its preamble, resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties, or have made other commitments aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and have

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taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials, such as those required by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM).

- The CPPNM, its 2005 Amendment, as well as the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) implement important elements of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) related to nuclear weapons and related materials.
- Operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2663 (2023) reiterates the Security Council's decision that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ... and addresses all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of that resolution, particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls.

Highlights

This workshop, which was attended by more than 30 representatives from a number of African States and international experts, was opened by the Secretary for Monitoring and Evaluation in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Mr. AT Chikondo.

The event provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions with and among regional States on their accession to and implementation of, the CPPNM and its Amendment, as well as ICSANT. It also presented a valuable opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the Committee's assistance mechanism and other tools to support national implementation. Participants were briefed about the differences in scope, objectives and application of the different international instruments, but also the complementary nature of resolution 1540 (2004) and overlaps with provisions under other international instruments. Participants also had the opportunity to exchange information on some of the challenges experienced in the process of accession and the implementation of nuclear security instruments, lessons learnt, as well as the benefits of the full and effective implementation of the respective instruments.

Additional Comments

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