

Information Note¹

- Event:** Regional Conference on Advancing Chemical Weapons Convention Implementing Legislation in Africa
- Organizer:** Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in close cooperation with the National Authority of the Republic of Namibia
- Date and Venue:** 28-29 April 2025, Windhoek, Namibia
- Participants²:** The event counted with the attendance of senior government officials and legal experts from 23 African countries; one member of the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts; and virtual participation of representatives from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), African Union Commission (AUC) and African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICISIS).

Background

On 10 March 2025, the Head of Implementation Support Branch of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting a member of the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts to participate in the Regional Conference on Advancing Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Implementing Legislation in Africa.

According to the invitation letter, this conference would be organised by the OPCW in close cooperation with the National Authority of the Republic of Namibia, and would bring together African States Parties to the CWC that do not yet have comprehensive national implementing legislation to share their experiences, common challenges and best practices, and explore opportunities for regional collaboration to advance the national adoption processes. Furthermore, representatives of African States Parties with good practices and experiences in the enactment of CWC legislation, as well as relevant regional and international organizations would be invited to attend.

According to the received invitation, the participating 1540 Committee Expert was requested to deliver a presentation on the synergies between Resolution 1540 (2004) and the CWC, under the topic "Advancing the adoption of national implementing legislation; cooperation and way forward",

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.

² Participants list attached for reference.

and to contribute to thematic discussions and information sharing sessions, including panel discussions and breakout groups, during the meeting.

By correspondence of 28 March 2025 (S/AC.44/2025/OC.8), the President of the Security Council, acting in the absence of a Chair of 1540 Committee, informed the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons that the Committee designated one member of the Group of Experts to participate in the event.

This workshop was of direct relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) and its follow-up resolutions as follows:

- Resolution 1540 (2004)
 - OP 8 (a), in which the Security Council calls upon States “to promote the universal adoption and full implementation, and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which they are parties, whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons”.
 - OP 8 (b), in which the Council calls upon States “to adopt national rules and regulations, where it has not yet been done, to ensure compliance with their commitments under the key multilateral non-proliferation treaties”.
 - OP 8 (c), in which the Council calls upon States to renew and fulfil their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes.
- Resolution 2325 (2016)
 - OP 23, in which the Council encourages “relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)”.
- Resolution 2663 (2022)
 - Preamble, in which the Council reaffirms its decision that none of the obligations in resolution 1540 (2004) shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;
 - OP 25, which requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, subregional, and, as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

Highlights

During the workshop, Hon. Natangwe Ithete, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy of Namibia, and H.E. Ambassador Odette Melono, OPCW Deputy Director-General, made remarks at the opening session.

The 1540 Expert made a presentation during the Conference, focused on the objectives and obligations of resolution 1540, highlighting the synergies between resolution 1540 and the Chemical Weapons Convention, under the topic “Advancing the adoption of national implementing legislation, cooperation and way forward”. The Expert also contributed to thematic discussions and information sharing sessions, including panel discussions and breakout groups, during the meeting.

Additional comments

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