

Information Note¹

- Event:** UN Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) for African States
- Organizers:** The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in cooperation with the Government of Egypt as a host country; funded by the European Union, the Governments of Norway and the United States.
- Date and Venue:** 7-11 December 2009; Cairo, Egypt
- Participants:** *Participating Member States:* Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Uganda, as well as France, Norway, and the United States
Other: European Union
International organizations: African Union, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, INTERPOL, 1540 Committee representatives and experts
Civil society and others: Centre for International Trade and Security (CITS), Japan Science and Technology Agency

1. Objectives

- promote awareness of the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) and its full implementation;
- facilitate sharing of experience on practical issues relating to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), particularly border and export controls;
- explore regional cooperation that can be used to improve the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- encourage cooperation arrangements through assistance programmes and the 1540 assistance template;
- conduct bilateral consultations with the participating States to discuss specific assistance requests and encourage the submission of additional information, such as a summary action plan for implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

2. Background

The workshop was the fifth in a series of UNODA-organized regional workshops to promote capacity-building on national and regional levels to advance full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The workshop focused primarily on the main elements of border and export controls and was specifically tailored for border, customs and regulatory officials from the participating African States. It aimed at encouraging experience-sharing in related areas and at the identification of specific capacity-building measures that are responsive to regional and specific national requirements. The workshop served as a platform for raising awareness of available offers or programs of technical assistance.

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.

The workshop's program included presentations of national mechanisms to monitor export, re-export, transit and trans-shipments, presentations on international and regional efforts and approaches of international and regional organizations to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), on available assistance programs to facilitate the implementation of the resolution as well as discussions on trade facilitation and security, risk assessment and management, examination techniques and technical detection capabilities and cooperation with industry and the academic community.

3. **Highlights**

The workshop provided participating Member States the opportunity to share information and experiences and discuss the challenges associated with the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). States in the region expressed their commitment to honoring their obligations under the resolution. The discussions during the workshop focused on tools that can foster enhanced capabilities and capacity-building, a pressing issue in the region where resources are so limited. Several suggestions were made regarding assistance, especially the provision of training and equipment to detect illicit movement of goods at national borders. Participants from African countries express interest in the potential for linking implementation of the resolution to fulfillment of development objectives. In implementing the border and export control obligations of resolution 1540 (2004), some States saw additional opportunities to enhance borders controls with a positive impact on other national goals, such as increased revenue collection, reduction in illicit trafficking in arms and drugs, or moving goods to global markets faster, less expensively and more securely. States stressed that they needed to work with their neighbors when implementing new policies on resolution 1540 (2004) recognizing that a new national policy would have an impact on their neighbors and that cooperation with their neighbors would be needed to make the policies more effective.

4. **Bilateral consultations**

Bilateral consultations were held between a delegation of each participating Member State and 1540 Committee Members and experts, focusing on next steps of implementation and, as appropriate, identifying areas of cooperation, including assistance.

5. **Additional comments**

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