

Information Note¹

Event:	1540 Committee visit to Malawi, at the request of its Government
Organizer:	Government of Malawi in cooperation with the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)
Date and venue:	5 – 8 August 2014, Lilongwe and Dedza Border Post, Malawi
Participants:	Government of Malawi, 1540 Committee Member, 1540 Committee Experts and UNREC

1. Objectives for the participation of 1540 Committee Experts

The objectives for the participation of the 1540 Committee Experts in the visit included supporting Malawi's drafting process of its first national 1540 report, and to raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among the relevant national stakeholders. The Experts also undertook, and discussed with the national stakeholders, an analysis of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Malawi, which facilitated the identification of possible further steps to be undertaken and assistance needs.

2. Background

Resolution 1977 (2011) 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. Since the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee had conducted visits to the United States, Albania, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Republic of Korea, Burkina Faso, Niger and Bangladesh.

The Permanent Mission of Malawi to the United Nations extended a formal invitation to the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts to undertake a visit to Malawi from 5 to 8 August 2014.

3. Highlights and discussions

The programme included a 1540 report writing workshop, which was held with national stakeholders, courtesy calls and a visit to the Dedza border crossing between Malawi and Mozambique. The 1540 Committee member, Mr. Dovydas Špokauskas, gave a media interview and aspects thereof were published in the Malawi media.

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 sessions were moderated by various government officials, and the 1540 Committee Experts chaired two breakout sessions on Malawi's national 1540 report.

Besides drafting an outline of Malawi's 1540 report, the objectives of the workshop included informing the national stakeholders of the 1540 obligations, conducting a dialogue on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) that included an analysis of Malawi's 1540 matrix, and, where possible, updating the information and obtaining a point of contact.

National governmental stakeholders included the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Health; Lands; Justice; Transport; Home Affairs; Tourism, Wildlife and Culture as well as Trade and Industry. The Malawi Defence Force, Police, National Intelligence Bureau, Financial Intelligence Unit, Bureau of Standards and the Cabinet Office as well as the Mzuzu University also participated in the workshop.

The UNREC representative welcomed participants on behalf of UNREC and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA). He gave an overview of the support given to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by ODA and UNREC and of other activities they undertake in Africa.

Mr. Dovydas Špokauskas delivered the opening statement on behalf of the 1540 Committee, and thanked the Government for their invitation to the Committee to undertake a visit to Malawi. He outlined the basic obligations of resolution 1540 (2004) and emphasized the value of information on the implementation efforts by States submitted to the Committee. Warren Gunda, Deputy Director of Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally welcomed the 1540 delegation, and stated that Malawi does not supply to anybody weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. He referred to the establishment of the Malawi national authorities for the chemical and biological weapons conventions.

The 1540 Committee Member made a presentation on Lithuania's experience on the drafting a national 1540 report. The Experts made the following presentations:

- Briefing on 1540 Obligations
- Overview of the 1540 Matrix and 1540 Implementation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) States
- Overview of 1540 Assistance
- Overview of 1540 Reporting including voluntary National Implementation Action Plans

The participants broke into two parallel breakaway sessions to discuss the draft 1540 report of Malawi. The 1540 Committee Experts chaired these sessions. The draft report was thoroughly discussed and where relevant, amended.

Courtesy calls were made on Ms. Lonely Magreta, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Defence; Mr. Bestone W Chisamile, Secretary for Home Affairs, and; General I.E.J Maulana, Malawi Defence Force Commander.

In addition, a meeting was held with officials in the Environmental Affairs Department, which drafted and implements the Malawi Atomic Energy Act.

The host country organized an on-site visit to the Dedza border post between Malawi and Mozambique. The Malawi Revenue Authority officer in charge of the border post explained how the border crossing operates and how cargo is checked.

Malawi submitted their first national 1540 report to the Committee on 5 September 2014.

4. **Additional Comments**

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