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Malawi Government Engages UN Experts On Resolution 1540 NAP Formulation

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Lilongwe — Malawi Government has engaged UN Security Council experts in a two-day workshop to tap knowledge from them on the formulation of National Action Plan (NAP) for Resolution 1540 of the UN Security Council.

Resolution 1540 of the UN Security Council calls for member states to strengthen international efforts in preventing non-state actors' attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Speaking during the launch of the workshop on Thursday in Lilongwe, Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation Minister, Dr George Chaponda, said as member-state and party to 1540 Resolution, Malawi needed a National Action Plan that would help implement the Resolution.

"This shift is a necessity, as nowadays, non-state actors like terrorist groups are becoming more influential, in setting the tone in global affairs," explained Chaponda.

The Minister commended the UN Security Council experts for promptly heeding to Malawi government's invitation to facilitate the workshop which he said was aimed at taking the UNSCR 1540 to greater height following the formulation of the National Action Plan.

Chaponda said Malawi was facing a number of challenges in implementing the Resolution among which border on human, systematic, technical and technological capacity.

"Malawi has porous borders which makes it a channel for undesirable persons, and materials," said Chaponda, adding: "Again, there is an absence of a comprehensive legislation on terrorism and counter-terrorism and it is against this background that Malawi has sought the assistance of the 1540 Committee Experts in drawing a National Action Plan."

He said the Plan would be instrumental to the implementation of the Resolution and that it would operationalize the country's intent in dealing with non-state actors, on issues of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Programmes Manager for UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Alain Bortre, and UNSC expert Bennie Lombard, hailed Malawi government for showing commitment towards the implementation of Resolution 1540.

The experts pledged to work together during the workshop to facilitate an even more effective implementation of resolution 1540 by all stakeholders in Malawi and that they would have discussed Malawi's NAP by the end of business.

Attending the workshop are officers from various departments among them, Malawi Revenue Authority, Malawi Police Service, Malawi Defence Force, Malawi Bureau of Standards and the Immigration Department.

The two-day workshop that ends on Friday has been organized by UNODA through United Nation's Regional Centre (UNREC) for Peace and Disarmament in collaboration with Malawi government.

UNSCR 1504 came into force in 2004 and since then, 174 States have reported to the Committee on their implementation efforts while 16 States have submitted action plans for the implementation of the Resolution, according to Lombard.