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**AU REVIEW AND ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004) IN AFRICA**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
6-7 APRIL 2016**

CONCLUSIONS

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1. The Review and Assistance Conference on the Implementation of United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa was held from 6 to 7 April 2016 at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The conference was held in collaboration with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to the resolution (1540 Committee) and with the support of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).
2. The following are the Member States that attended the conference: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Sahrawi Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The conference was also attended by the following partner States: Canada, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States.
3. The conference was also attended by the following Regional Economic Communities (RECs): the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
4. Also in attendance was a range of UN agencies, international and regional organizations and specialized bodies. These are: the European Union, Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), African Bio-safety Association (AfBSA), African Bio-safety Network of Expertise of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (ABNE/NEPAD), Chemical and Allied Industries' Association (CAIA) of South Africa, Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET), International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) of the University of Cape Town, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research of the University of Ghana, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC).
5. The conference was organized within the framework of the Common African Defence and Security Policy, adopted by the 2nd Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Union, held on 28 February 2004 in Sirte, which recognizes that the accumulation, stockpiling, proliferation and manufacturing of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, pose a threat to regional security and calls for collective efforts by Member States. The conference was also organized in follow up to decision *Assembly/AU/Dec.472(XX)* adopted by the 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held from 27 to 28 January 2013 in Addis Ababa, in which it requested the Commission to take the necessary steps, in collaboration with the 1540

Committee and other stakeholders, to promote and enhance the implementation of resolution 1540 in Africa.

6. The objective of the conference was to bring together Member States, particularly those which submitted requests for assistance to the 1540 Committee, and the assistance providers, in order to mobilize support and match assistance requests and offers. The conference also aimed to provide Member States with the opportunity to inform the 2016 Comprehensive Review of those specific aspects experienced with the implementation of resolution 1540 in Africa since 2004 that needs to be taken into consideration during the review.

7. The opening session featured statements by Dr. Admore Kambudzi, Acting Director of the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission, Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Chair of the 1540 Committee and Permanent representative of Spain to the UN, and Mr Franz Kolar, Officer-in-Charge of the UNODA Support to the 1540 Committee, on behalf of Mr. Kim Won-soo, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. The speakers stressed that the threats and risks that resolution 1540 aimed to address at the time of its adoption remain present and that the resolution has become an important component of the global security architecture. The speakers noted with satisfaction the overall progress made by AU Member States, which demonstrates the continent's commitment to resolution 1540 and the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. The speakers further recognized that the implementation of resolution 1540 is a continuous and long term task that requires sustained efforts and cooperation at the national, regional and international levels and thus highlighted that the conference is an important initiative in sustaining the progress made and address the remaining gaps.

8. The 1540 Committee Expert Group provided a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of resolution 1540 in Africa and the progress recorded between 2010 and 2015. The participants took note of the positive progress made over the last five years and that the 1540 Committee revised matrices have recorded additional measures for most Member States, including an increase in the adherence to related international legally binding instruments. Encouragingly, many of those additional recorded measures were due to new or updated legislation adopted by Member States that contributed to strengthening their implementation of the obligations contained in the resolution. It was also noted that, notwithstanding the increase in measures taken, there is a need to accelerate the implementation of measures especially on the accounting and securing of materials related to chemical and biological weapons, and in the export of materials related to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

9. Regarding the designation of national points of contact, note was taken of the increase to 25 African States that have submitted to the 1540 Committee a national point of contact. States and RECs that have not already submitted a point of contact were encouraged to do so. In the context of the need to continue to develop activities to further enhance the capacity of national points of contact and engage them in relevant initiatives and capacity-building

programmes, participants welcomed the announcement by the 1540 Committee of a dedicated training programme for African national points of contact which will be launched later in the year. Views were also expressed to have periodic meetings of 1540 points of contact to review implementation efforts, share experiences and map progress on assistance.

10. On national reporting, it was noted that a significant number of African States have already submitted national 1540 reports and some of those States have also provided additional information on the measures they have taken to implement the resolution 1540. Participants recognized the value of submitting such information to the 1540 Committee and encouraged those States that have not already submitted a first report, to expedite the process of submission. In this regard, note was taken of the offer of assistance by the 1540 Committee to facilitate the drafting and submission of such reports.

11. Note was also taken of the four African States that have submitted a voluntary national implementation action plan, and those African States that are in the process of developing their plans. The value of developing such plans was recognised as a useful mechanism to identify steps that need to be taken to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540. A number of African States that invited the 1540 Committee indicated the usefulness of such visits in facilitating awareness raising, analysis of implementation progress, identification of assistance needs and development of voluntary national implementation actions plans. Participants took note of further visits scheduled to take place in Africa and encouraged States to consider extending such invitations to the 1540 Committee.

12. A number of Member States briefed participants on their efforts and approaches to the implementation of resolution 1540 and the relevant instruments, including the institutional structures in place that lead and contribute to the implementation process, as well as their collaboration and interaction with the 1540 Committee and assistance providers. Member States also highlighted the institutional and capacity challenges they face and the innovative approaches that they have developed to overcome some of the obstacles encountered.

13. In this regard, it was observed that the process of implementing resolution 1540 as driven by Member States, is making steady progress but is a long-term task that would require national ownership of the implementation process, based on an approach that is informed by the national context, takes into consideration the institutional structures and capacities, and which guarantee the sustainability of the progress. In this context, participants discussed opportunities to enhance inter-African cooperation and encouraged Member States to share their experiences with countries in their regions and beyond.

14. International partners, UN agencies and international organizations and bodies briefed participants on the various technical, legislative and operational assistance programs offered and shared their experiences and lessons learned in this regard. Participants recognized that assistance is a key element in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 in Africa and States were encouraged to find linkages with their respective development processes when

formulating assistance requests. Participants welcomed the substantial assistance programmes offered by the international partners and organizations and commended the dedicated efforts by the 1540 Committee and its Expert Group to match offers of assistance with requests made. Views were expressed that the actual delivery of 1540 related assistance needs to be strengthened and those that are considering submitting assistance requests, were encouraged to engage with the assistance providers, the 1540 Committee and the AU Commission to formulate specific and realistic assistance requests that would facilitate its delivery.

15. The role of RECs in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 was emphasised. Note was taken of the initiatives of some of these RECs to hold meetings on the resolution in cooperation with African non-governmental organisations, and these communities and organisations were encouraged to continue with such initiatives and to designate 1540 points of contact. Participants also welcomed the proposals made by RECs to undertake benchmarking and baseline assessment exercises at the sub-regional level, that would contribute to coherent and collaborative regional approaches.

16. A number of regional specialised governmental and non-governmental organisations briefed participants on their efforts and initiatives to facilitate the implementation of activities related to resolution 1540. Participants were encouraged by the availability of such African expertise to assist States with their 1540 implementation efforts while advancing broader socio-economic agendas. In this regard, participants welcomed the efforts of the AU Commission to integrate specialized African bodies in the regional 1540 assistance framework.

17. The conference provided an opportunity to organize parallel bilateral consultations which brought together representatives of Member States that requested assistance and the assistance providers on the basis of the match-making exercise undertaken by the 1540 Committee. The bilateral consultations allowed for concrete discussions between the participants on the type and modalities of assistance to be provided and agreed on the next steps towards the delivery of the assistance requested. Member States with which bilateral consultations were held are Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

18. The value of model legislation was recognised and the AU Commission was encouraged to consider launching a process to develop relevant model 1540 legislation that Member States could use as a reference in developing their national legislation on the implementation of resolution 1540. It was highlighted that such model legislation should build on the good practices and experience of international organizations that provide legislative assistance in the related areas.

19. The dedicated efforts by the AU Commission in facilitating 1540 implementation by Member States were recognised with appreciation. Participants called for a strengthened coordination role by the AU Commission to facilitate Member States' 1540 implementation efforts and to channel assistance to this end. In this regard, the participants considered that a

central coordination point within the AU Commission could also act as a liaison office with other regional bodies to which concerns on implementation and assistance could be directed.

20. Regarding the 2016 Comprehensive Review of implementation of resolution 1540, note was taken of the 1540 Committee's open-ended meeting to be held on 20-22 June 2016 in New York, and participants encouraged Member States and the AU Commission to actively engage in, and contribute to, the review process. While expressing appreciation of the match-making role of the 1540 Committee and the work it carried out during the last eleven years, participants expressed the need to consider, in the course of the Comprehensive Review, ways to enhance the role of the 1540 Committee in the provision of assistance.

21. The Conference was made possible by the financial contributions made to the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities by the United States, the Republic of Korea and the European Union.