

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

**Event:** Training for Francophone African Countries 1540 Points of Contact

**Organizer(s):** African Union

**Date and Venue:** 14-16 August 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Participants: States:** Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Togo

**Organisations:** UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Inter-governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), Task Force on Money Laundering in Central Africa (GABAC), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Customs Organization (WCO), European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centers of Excellence, International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Group of Experts of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) African Bio-safety Network of expertise (NEPAD/ABNE), Forum for Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA).

### Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) and its follow-up resolutions emphasize the importance of assisting States with their implementation of the obligations contained in the resolution. To facilitate implementation of the obligations contained in resolution 1540 (2004), States are encouraged to inform the Committee of their points of contact on the implementation of resolution 1540 (1540 POCs), both in their capitals and in their Permanent Missions in New York. Resolution 2325 (2016) again “encourages all States that have not yet done so to provide the 1540 Committee with a Point of Contact for Resolution 1540 (2004), and urges the Committee to continue to undertake initiatives to strengthen the capacity of such Points of Contact to assist on the implementation of the resolution, upon request of States, including through the continuation on a regional basis of the Committee’s Point of Contact Training Programme.” To date, 102 States have nominated a POC.

The training course was intended to enhance POCs’ understanding of resolution 1540 (2004) and its background, effective practices in meeting implementation challenges and the range of tools available to support States in meeting their obligations. It was also intended to encourage and

---

<sup>1</sup> For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

promote POC networking initiatives, benefit especially newly appointed POCs, and encourage nomination of POCs by States that had not yet done so.

### **Highlights**

This course was the first of two POC training courses envisaged for the African region. It enhanced the understanding of the participants from Francophone African States of the potential threat of the use of WMD by non-State actors, including in Africa, the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) in preventing such a possibility and its implementation requirements and challenges.

The content and design of the programme met the objectives of the course and contributed to strengthening the 1540 Points of Contact network. Participants injected considerable energy into the discussions, particularly during the break-out sessions. The recommendations from the break-out groups focused on the need for channels of effective communications between the government departments and agencies responsible for national implementation, between the respective PoCs and with the 1540 Committee.

Preparations for the second POC training course for other African States during 2019 will commence shortly.

### **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).