

Information Note¹

Event: 4th African Conference on Emerging Infectious Disease and Biosecurity

Organizer: Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET)

Date and Venue: 26 – 28 September 2018, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Participants: *States:* Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda

Governmental and non-governmental organizations: Defense Threat Reduction Agency and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) (US Government), London School of hygiene & Tropical Medicine: BBMRI-ERIC (European research infrastructure for biobanking), African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and the West African Health Organization (WAHO)

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) requires that all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws that prohibit any non-State actor certain activities regarding WMD as well as, among other actions, prohibit the financing of any such activities. Resolution 1540 (2004) further requires all States to take and enforce, *inter alia*, effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.

Further to that, resolution 2325 (2016) requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional, and, as appropriate, national level, with parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts and focus them on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation of the aforementioned resolutions.

On May 9, 2018, the Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET), sent an invitation to the 1540 Committee Chair, requesting that a 1540 Committee expert be nominated to participate in, and provide a presentation at the 4th African Conference on Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) and Biosecurity to be held in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

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.

Highlights

From September 26 to 28, 2018, the Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET), organized a three-day conference in Freetown, Sierra Leone for African countries of the Sub-Saharan region, which was sponsored by the Wellcome Trust Foundation. This conference aimed mainly at accelerating regional and continental political and public awareness of biological threats and align with international efforts such as UNSCR 1540 (2004), the Biological Weapons Convention, the International Health Regulations (World Health Organization), the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (World Organization for Animal Health) and the One Health Paradigm (World Health Organization) which address such threats.

The conference provided a good opportunity to highlight relevant 1540 obligations and the assistance mechanism of the 1540 Committee. It also provided a valuable opportunity to learn about deficiencies in the control of biological materials in the region as a result of weak biosecurity measures in place.

Additional Comments

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