

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

- Event:** Workshop on Nuclear Security Policy and Practice in the African Continent
- Organisers:** African Centre for Science and International Security (AFRICISIS) and the James Martin Center for Non Proliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey
- Date and venue:** 5-10 February, Accra, Ghana
- Participants:** **Government representatives from:** Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Togo.  
**International Organisations:** 1540 Group of Experts, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), African Union, International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE).  
**Other Organisations:** University of the Witwatersrand, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, Kenyan Young Generation in Nuclear (KYGN), Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi (Ghana), Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra (Ghana), University of Kumasi (Ghana), Sweden Ghana Medical Centre, Accra, (Ghana), Daily Graphics Newspaper (Ghana).

### **Background**

- The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of nuclear security risks and threats in Africa.
- Among others, participants discussed the threat of terrorism in their States, the circumstances that have prevented the occurrence of a terror attack involving radioactive and nuclear materials and the possibilities of future terrorist attacks in an African State involving radiological and nuclear materials.

### **Highlights**

The workshop brought together practitioners from different disciplines related to nuclear security, among others, from nuclear regulatory authorities, ministries of foreign affairs, hospitals, universities, research institutes and the press, as well as officials from international organizations.

The 1540 Expert made a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004), highlighting its obligations and also mentioning the new elements included in resolution 2325 (2016). The Expert also made a presentation on the status of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Africa, in particular in the nuclear field. He also described the progress made by most African States since 2010 based on the data of the most recent update of the 1540 matrices. He also made reference to the role of regional governmental organisations in supporting resolution 1540 (2004) implementation in the continent.

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<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.

Several presentations were made by an official of the IAEA including on radiological security, nuclear security needs in Africa and the IAEA's approach to address these threats, as well as on transportation security and the transboundary movement of radioactive material in scrap metal.

Among others, the CNS made a presentation on a project carried out in Eastern Europe that used social media to locate potential orphan and disused sources, and explained the international nuclear security Regime. AFRICISIS and CNS made reference to Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) minimization activities in Africa. A member of the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) addressed the issue of insider threats.

Two table-top exercises on physical protection fundamentals and nuclear security culture were also conducted. They were aimed at helping participants to better understand the principles of the IAEA guidance.

The workshop also included a visit to the Radiotherapy Department installations of the Korle Bu Hospital in Accra in which radiological sources are used.

**Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts