

Information Note¹

Event: Workshop on the role of Implementing Legislation on the Chemical Weapons Convention in Addressing Threats Arising from Non-State Actors

Organizer: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Government of Nigeria

Date and Venue: 16-18 October 2018, Abuja, Nigeria

Background

Resolution 2325 (2016) encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) (in operative paragraph 23). The resolution also encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to highlight the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004) in their model legislation and/or guidelines, where appropriate, pertaining to instruments under their mandate relevant to the resolution (in operative paragraph 25).

In Resolution 2325 (2016) operative paragraph 15, the 1540 Committee was encouraged to continue to identify and compile effective implementation best practices and, upon request, to share appropriate effective best practices for implementing resolution 1540 (2004) with the States.

On 14 August 2018, Hamza Khelif, Director of International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting a representative of the Group of Experts assisting the Committee to take part in the Workshop on the Role of Implementation Legislation on Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in addressing threats arising from non-State actors.

The OPCW Executive Council adopted a decision, in October 2017, emphasizing the role of the OPCW within its mandate in preventing and responding to the threat posed by the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors.

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.

One expert attended the workshop.

Overview

Mr Gabriel T. Aduba, Permanent Secretary, Political & Economic Affairs Department and Chairman of the Nigerian National Authority on the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions and Mr Kesrat Sukasam, Head of Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW opened the meeting.

After the opening remarks, Ambassador Layiwola Laseinde (ret.) from Nigeria introduced the nature of current and emerging threats and vulnerabilities, including the acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-state actors in the region. Subsequently, OPCW, UNODC Nigeria country office, 1540 Expert, INTERPOL and WCO presented the relevance of their activities and obligations to addressing the threats arising from non-state actors.

Participation from each country were composed of two to three persons who are the main stakeholders in implementing the CWC in each country, including legislation drafters, military personnel, custom officials, and police officers. Each country made presentations on the nature of terrorism threats affecting them, as well as the status of national implementation of the CWC.

On the second day, the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), WCO, INTERPOL, UNODC, OPCW, as well as 1540 Group of Experts made presentations on their assistance and capacity-building programs.

Additional Comments

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