

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

<b>Event:</b>	Fifteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) States Parties in Africa
<b>Organizers:</b>	The Gambia and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
<b>Date and venue:</b>	18-20 July 2017, Banjul, The Gambia
<b>Participants:</b>	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### **Background**

- Resolution 1540 (2004) calls on all States (operative paragraph 8) “to promote ... full implementation and, where necessary, strengthening of multi-lateral treaties to which they are parties, whose main objective is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear biological or chemical weapons”. Further, the resolution calls upon States to renew and fulfil their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of... and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons... as an important means of achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation...”
- On 29 March 2017, a letter from the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, sent to the Chair, invited a representative of the Group of Experts to participate in a panel discussion and make presentation on achievements, needs and challenges related to terrorism and non-state actors at the regional meetings being co-organised by OPCW with State Parties. The meeting was part of the events to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

### **Overview**

At the inaugural session, the Permanent Secretary (PS) of The Gambia’s Ministry of Defence, when welcoming participants, said that his country had incorporated the CWC into national legislation in 2012. The Director of International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW made reference to the destruction of Chemical Weapons (CW) in Libya. Among other issues, he indicated that Africa had not fully exploited the potential of the CWC and that more than 20 States still needed to take measures to implement their obligations in accordance with the Convention. He also congratulated Angola for the recent establishment of its CWC National Authority.

During the panel discussion devoted to the 20 years of the CWC, the 1540 Expert made a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004) focusing in particular in the implementation of the resolution in Africa in the CW field and highlighting the new elements included in resolution 2325 (2016).

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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.

In the course of the meeting, among others, the OPCW Secretariat briefed participants on the status of the implementation of the CWC and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Phase of its Africa's Programme.

Participating delegations made national presentations on their respective legal frameworks and the methods of work of their CWC national authorities. In the framework of break-out groups, delegations exchanged good practices and challenges faced by the national authorities.

The 1540 Expert met bilaterally five delegations (Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) to talk about the submission of their first reports in accordance with operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1540 (2004).

**Additional comments**

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