

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

**Events:** Southern African Development Community (SADC) Workshop in support of the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Southern Africa and SADC Wiesbaden Conference entitled “Government-Industry Partnership in the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004)”.

**Organizers:** Government of Zambia, in its capacity as Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), with financial support from the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, respectively.

**Date and Venue:** 29 to 30 May and 31 May 2019, respectively, Livingstone, Zambia.

**Participants:** Government representatives from Angola, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as industry representatives from SADC States (participating in the Wiesbaden Conference only).

Representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Customs Organisation (WCO by video), the German Government (including the Federal Office for Economic Affairs & Export Control, BAFA), as well as international industry representatives (Siemens and AMD – Wiesbaden Conference only).

1540 Group of Experts.

### **Background**

- Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Under operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, all States are obliged to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws prohibiting such activities by non-State actors on their territories. In addition, operative paragraph 3 requires States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective measures to establish domestic controls on these weapons, their means of delivery and related material.
- While resolution 1540 (2004) imposes binding obligations on all UN Member States, industry and the private sector are important stakeholders in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and in achieving its objective of combating the proliferation of weapons of mass

---

<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 organizers or participants in the event.

destruction (WMD) to and by non-state actors. Resolution 2325 (2016) acknowledges the positive role that industry can play in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

- During a national seminar on resolution 1540 (2004) implementation and Strategic Trade Controls held in Lusaka during August 2018, the Government of Zambia, as current Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, expressed an interest to arrange a meeting of SADC States to strengthen resolution 1540 implementation in Southern Africa. On 1 March 2019, the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations forwarded a letter from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to the 1540 Chair inviting the Committee and its Group of Experts to participate in the SADC Workshop from 29 to 30 May 2019. On 29 April 2019, the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations forwarded another letter to the 1540 Chair extending an invitation to the Committee to participate in the Wiesbaden Industry Conference to take place on 31 May 2019, immediately after the SADC Workshop.

### **Highlights**

The SADC Workshop and Wiesbaden Conference enhanced the understanding of participants of the threat of the proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors, including in the Southern African region, as well as the importance of the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in preventing such a possibility. The two events provided a platform for participants to share their experiences and to discuss implementation challenges, as well as to be briefed on available assistance programmes to support national efforts.

The Workshop allowed participants to identify opportunities for closer collaboration between SADC States in terms of implementation, law enforcement, border and export controls, including the establishment of effective national and/or regional control lists. SADC States also exchanged views on the degree of compatibility and possible harmonization of implementation legislation, regulatory mechanisms, export controls and enforcement methodologies.

The Wiesbaden Conference created an opportunity for engagement between government and industry representatives from the region and participants gained a better understanding of the benefits of close collaboration.

### **Additional Comments**

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