

Information Note¹

- Event:** National Capacity Building Workshop: Strengthening National Strategic Trade Control Enforcement under the framework of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
- Organizer:** Government of Togo in cooperation with the UNODA/UNREC, the 1540 Group of Experts and the World Customs Organization (WCO), with financial support from the European Union
- Date and Venue:** 23-25 January 2019, Lomé, Togo
- Participants:** Government of Togo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Office of the President; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment (CBRN focal point), Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Security, Togolese Customs, Radiation Protection Authority, ANIAC (National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention)
- International participants: 1540 Committee Expert; UNREC; UNODA; World Customs Organisation (WCO); Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Background

Operative paragraph 7 of resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of the resolution. Operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1810 (2008) encourages States to convey assistance requests to the Committee. Resolution 2325 (2016) emphasizes the importance of providing States, in response to requests, with effective assistance that meets their needs.

On 9 October 2014, the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations (UN) requested the 1540 Committee (reference S/AC.44/2014/9) for assistance in support of Togo's efforts to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004). Subsequently, on 6 July 2015, following a workshop hosted in Lomé on 15 and 16 June 2015 in which two 1540 experts participated, the Permanent Mission of Togo submitted a National Action Plan (NAP) towards the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), outlining Togo's plans, priorities and needs for the period 2016-2022.

Togo's assistance request was circulated to UN Member States and international organizations that had expressed interest in providing assistance, while Togo's NAP was published on the 1540 Committee's website. On 7 August 2018, a reply was received from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) indicating its readiness, in cooperation with the World Customs

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Organization (WCO) and with the financial contribution of the European Union, to respond to one of Togo's requests by supporting the hosting of a Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Capacity Building Workshop for Government officials in Togo.

On 7 September 2018, the Chair of the 1540 Committee sent a letter to the Permanent Mission of Togo conveying the offer of assistance from UNODA and the WCO. In a letter dated 28 November 2018, the Government of Togo informed the 1540 Committee of its intention to host a Workshop on Strategic Trade Controls in Lomé from 23 to 25 January 2019 and invited the Group of Experts to participate.

Highlights

The Workshop provided an opportunity for the 1540 Group of Experts to increase awareness and broaden the understanding of national stakeholders in Togo of 1540 obligations, to re-emphasize the importance of the full and effective implementation of the resolution to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to non-State actors, and to review progress made towards Togo's National Implementation Action Plan (NAP) for the period 2016 – 2022.

The Experts will maintain contact with the Permanent Mission of Togo, as well as with relevant national stakeholders to follow-up on the possible submission of an additional report on progress made in relation to Togo's voluntary National Implementation Action Plan, as well as any additional assistance that may be required. With regard to the Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE) aspects of the workshop, the WCO will continue to work with Togo on training modalities commensurate with Togo's needs in the area of customs and border controls.

Additional Comments

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