

Information Note¹

- Event:** African Regional High-Level meeting on Facilitating Adherence to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM/A)
- Organizers:** Hosted by the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICSIS) headquartered in Accra, Ghana, and funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- Date and Venue:** 16-17 February 2023, Accra, Ghana
- Participants:** *Representatives from African States:*
Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- International representatives:*
African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), 1540 Committee

Background

In a letter dated 27 January 2023 addressed to the former Chair of the 1540 Committee, Mr. Hubert K. Foy, Director of the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICSIS) and Senior Research Scientist with the Project on Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation, extended an invitation to members of the Committee's Group of Experts to participate in an African Regional High-Level meeting on Facilitating Adherence to the Amendment to Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM/A). In the follow up of the AFRICSIS Africa Regional Webinar that was held virtually on 17-18 January 2023 for African countries not yet party to the CPPNM and its Amendment, in which the Committee participated, this subsequent event was held in Accra (Ghana) from 16 to 17 February 2023 and was intended for senior government officials and legislators from 24 African States not yet party to the Amendment to the CPPNM. It aimed to deepen the understanding of participants from African States on the international nuclear security framework and to promote discussions on related issues including adherence to and strengthening of legislative and technical implementation of nuclear security instruments.

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.

This meeting was of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) as follows:

- Resolution 2663 (2022) reaffirming its resolutions 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004
- The 1987 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), its 2005 Amendment, as well as the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) implement important elements of these operative paragraphs.
- Operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2663 (2022) reiterates the Security Council's decision that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls.
- Furthermore, operative paragraph 25 of resolution 2663 (2022) requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, subregional level ... and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

Highlights

The webinar was opened by Mr. Hubert Foy, Director at the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICISIS), who welcomed participants from African States and international experts. He briefly introduced the activities of AFRICISIS in support of strengthening nuclear security in Africa. Other participants in the opening session were Mr. Keith McMahon, Deputy High Commissioner at the British High Commission in Ghana who stressed the importance of nuclear security and the necessity for national and international actions; and Samuel Boakye Dampare, director-general of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) who thanked the engagement of international partners, including the African Union, in support of African Member States implementation.

While this regional meeting focused on adherence to and implementation of the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment, as well as ICSANT, it also provided an opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), including its nuclear security provisions, the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism and other tools to support States in the implementation of their obligations. Presentations by participants illustrated the differences between the respective nuclear security instruments, but also the complementary nature of resolution 1540 (2004) and overlaps with provisions under other international instruments. This meeting provided participants the opportunity to share their experiences and challenges in adhering and implementing the respective nuclear security instruments, to exchange ideas on how these could be overcome, as well as to hear about tools and assistance that is available to support such efforts.

Additional Comments

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