

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

- Event:** National Awareness-Raising Workshop on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in Angola
- Organizers:** United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and Venue:** 15 – 17 October 2024, Luanda, Angola
- Participants:** *Government representatives from Angola.*  
*International representatives:*  
National Defense Policy Directorate (Portugal); Department of Infectious Diseases (Portugal); South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (South Africa); Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit; and an Expert of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

### **Background**

By means of a letter dated 18 July 2024 (see S/AC.44/2024/NOTE.115), from the BWC Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) was invited to participate in the ‘*National Awareness-Raising Workshop on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in Angola*’. The workshop, organized by UNODA, was held from 15 to 17 October 2024 in Luanda, Angola, and a member of the Group of Experts supporting the activities of the 1540 Committee was designated by the 1540 Committee to participate (letter dated 29 August 2024, ref. S/AC.44/2024/OC.70).

The Workshop presentations were in English and Portuguese, with simultaneous interpretation in the two languages, and was hosted by the Government of Angola, supported by UNODA, and funded by Canada, European Union, United Kingdom, and United States.

The purpose of the event was to: (i) provide an overview of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and related implementation requirements, including on national implementing legislation, Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) under the BWC, as well as roles and responsibilities of National Contact Points (NCPs); (ii) provide participants with an opportunity to discuss and exchange views on national implementation issues; and (iii) raise awareness of the relationship between the BWC and other legally-binding instruments such as resolution 1540.

This Workshop is of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions as follows:

- Resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties or have made other commitments aimed at preventing

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<sup>1</sup> For information – this is 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.

the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and have taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials.

- Operative paragraph 1 (OP 1) of resolution 1540 (2004) requires 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 OP 2 of resolution 1540 (2004), States are obliged to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws prohibiting such activities by non-State actors on their territories.
- OP 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) requires States to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials. This includes measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport; effective physical protection measures; effective border controls and law enforcement efforts; national export and trans-shipment controls over such items, including appropriate laws and regulations to control export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export and controls on providing funds and services related to such export and trans-shipment such as financing, and transporting that would contribute to proliferation, as well as end-user controls; and criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.
- Resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of this resolution within their territories and invites States in a position to do so to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests to the States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the above provisions.
- OP 8 of resolution 2663 (2022) encourages States to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee and its expertise as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit these plans to the 1540 Committee.
- OP 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; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls.
- Furthermore, OP 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..., as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians..., and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

## **Highlights**

The workshop was attended by representatives from the National Authority for Arms Control and Disarmament (ANCAD), several agencies and Ministries from Angola, and international experts from the 1540 Group of Experts, BWC ISU, National Defense Policy Directorate (Portugal), Department of Infectious Diseases (Portugal), and South African Council for the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (South Africa).

The Workshop's opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Paulo Barroso Simões, Head of the Political, Press and Information Section at the EU Delegation in Angola; Mr. Lúcio Gonçalves Amaral, Secretary of State for the Protection of the State's Strategic Objectives; and Ms. Denise Antonio, United Nations Development Programme, Resident Representative, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Angola.

The workshop gathered representatives from twelve Ministries and allowed to raise their awareness and understanding of resolution 1540 (2004), such as during a presentation by the 1540 Committee's expert on resolution 1540 (2004) and successor resolutions.

With the goal of improving the understanding of the Workshop's participants of resolution 1540 (2004), including its objectives, inter-relation with the international and regional legally binding instruments on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and other related regimes and organizations, the assigned 1540 Committee expert, within the scope of the mandate of the 1540 Committee, delivered two presentations in Portuguese.

One presentation was focused on the objectives and obligations of the resolution 1540 (2004), as well as successor related resolutions, on aspects concerning measures to account for, secure and physically protect nuclear, chemical and biological weapons related materials, on export and border controls, and on an overview of Angola's and regional's 1540 Matrix.

This initial presentation also summarized some of the 1540 Committee's activities related to the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) with specific reference to biological weapons issues, and covered a particular topic about the relationship between the BWC and resolution 1540. A second presentation was delivered specifically on the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for invited international experts to share their knowledge and experience on related issues about implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), i.e., experts from Portugal and South Africa.

## **Additional Comments**

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