

Information Note¹

- Event:** National Workshop on UNSCR 1540 (2004) related export controls for Namibia
- Organizer:** Government of Germany, Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) and the Namibian Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade
- Date and Venue:** 11-12 November 2024, Windhoek, Namibia
- Participants:** Representatives from the Government of Germany (BAFA), Government representatives from Namibian Ministry of Industrialization and Trade, Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Revenue Authority, and Police, the head of the Secretariat to the South African Council for the Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, an advisor to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Export Controls, and a 1540 Committee Expert

Background:

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations sent a Note Verbale to the Chair of the 1540 Committee (S/AC.44/2024/NOTE.163) inviting him to nominate a member of the Group of Experts to participate in a national workshop on UNSCR 1540 (2004) related export controls for Namibia, and to make a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004).

The workshop took place in the framework of a project funded by Germany; “Enhancing Export Control Capacities for Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) Worldwide 2024,” which aims to enhance export control capacities and support implementation endeavors of States in different regions of the world. The workshop brought together key national stakeholders in Namibia for advancing the national implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) related export controls in the country.

This workshop was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions as follows:

- Resolution 1540 (2004):
 - Operative paragraph (OP) 3 requires all 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.
- Resolution 2663 (2022):

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.

- OP 1 reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution.
- OP 11 encourages Member States to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- OP 12 reiterates that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ... particularly noting the need for more attention, among others, on national export and transshipment controls.
- OP 25 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, and as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

Highlights:

The two-day workshop was attended by 13 representatives from different authorities of Namibia involved in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and, specifically, export controls. The national participants were actively involved in the discussions on the various topics focused on export control. The agenda included presentations highlighting elements of an effective export control system, such as dual use export control legislation, export control lists, and licensing. This was complimented by the sharing of experiences in national export control development and implementation from South African and Romania perspectives, as provided by representatives from those countries.

The 1540 Committee expert delivered two presentations on “UNSCR 1540 (2004): Main Obligations and Key Elements” and “UNSCR 1540 (2004) Main Obligations and Key Elements: Operative Paragraphs 3(c) and 3(d) as a Basis for Dual-Use Export Controls”. This provided an opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), including measures on export controls, as well as to provide information on the 1540 Committee’s assistance mechanism and other tools to support national implementation. The expert’s presentation included an interactive review and discussion about the Committee approved Namibian matrix for Paragraphs 3(c) and 3(d) and related matters from Operative Paragraph 6.

Additional comments

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