

Information Note¹

Events: Botswana National Workshop to strengthen the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Organizers: Government of Botswana in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and UNODA, with financial support from the European Union and the United States of America

Date and Venue: 11-12 August 2021, Virtual Workshop

Participants: Representatives from various Government Ministries in Botswana, other national authorities, agencies, research institutes, national bank and academic institutions
Representatives from the European Union and the United States of America (opening session only)
Chair of the 1540 Committee (recorded keynote address) and Group of Experts

Background

- Operative paragraph 1 of UN Security Council 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. Operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) 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.
- 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.
- Operative paragraph 8 of resolution 1977 (2011), encourages all States to prepare, on a voluntary basis, national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee.
- In a letter dated 22 February 2021, the Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations requested the 1540 Committee (S/AC.44/2021/NOTE.12 of 26 March) for assistance in

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support of Botswana's efforts to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004). With the concurrence of Botswana, this request was forwarded for consideration to relevant UN Member States and international organizations that had offered assistance.

- In a letter dated 27 July (S/AC.44/2021/NOTE.73 of 28 July), the Permanent Representative of Botswana extended an invitation to the Chair of the Committee to deliver a keynote address during a virtual National Workshop on 11-12 August on strengthening the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee was also requested to nominate Committee experts to participate in the Workshop. This Workshop is part of a larger project to meet Botswana's assistance requests, in cooperation with UNODA.

Highlights

The Workshop was opened by H.E. Mr. Collen Kelapile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations (UN), who expressed his Government's appreciation to the 1540 Committee for accepting the assistance request and reiterated Botswana's commitment to enhance its capacity to implement resolution 1540 (2004). Opening statements were also delivered by Mr Ioan Tudor, Chief of WMD Branch, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), H.E. Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen, the European Union (EU) Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Mr Todd Perry, Special Coordinator for UNSCR1540 at the Department of State of the United States. Chair of the 1540 Committee and Permanent Representative of Mexico, H.E. Mr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente, delivered a keynote address.

The substantive sessions during which 1540 Committee experts gave presentations covered an introduction to the objectives and obligations under resolution 1540 (2004); an overview of Botswana's 1540 matrix; a session devoted to the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Botswana with presentations by national stakeholders; a thematic discussion on import, export and transshipment controls of CBNR related materials; international assistance; and a session devoted to a roadmap towards the adoption of a voluntary national implementation action plan (NAP) by Botswana.

More than 100 representatives from various Government Ministries, national authorities, agencies, research institutes, the national bank and Botswana University participated in the Workshop. The Workshop, which is part of a larger 1540 assistance-related project, raised awareness and enhanced understanding of the main obligations and supporting provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), the threat posed by non-State actor proliferation, as well as the tools available to support national implementation, including potential sources of assistance. National stakeholders discussed the implementation measures taken by Botswana and identified areas in which further measures might be needed.

Additional Comments

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