

Information Note¹

- Events:** National Workshop on Botswana's voluntary 1540 National Implementation Action Plan (NAP)
- Organizers:** Government of Botswana in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), with financial support from the European Union and the United States of America
- Date and Venue:** 8-9 February 2022, Virtual event
- Participants:** Representatives from various Government Ministries of Botswana; Representatives from the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organisation (WCO), and VERTIC; Representatives from the Governments of Japan, South Africa, the United States of America and the European Union (EU); Chair of the 1540 Committee (recorded keynote address); and Members of the Group of Experts

Background

In a letter dated 17 January 2022 (S/AC.44/2022/NOTE.7), the Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations informed the Committee that Botswana would host a national workshop on 8-9 February 2022 to introduce and finalise Botswana's draft voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP). Botswana invited the Chair of the 1540 Committee to deliver a keynote address and requested the nomination of Committee Experts to participate in the event. This virtual Workshop constituted the second phase of a larger project in cooperation with UNODA and follow-up to the virtual National Workshop on strengthening the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) hosted by Botswana in collaboration with the 1540 Committee and UNODA 11-12 August 2021.

This event was of direct relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) and its follow-up resolutions as follows:

- 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

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.

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.

Highlights

The Workshop was opened by H.E. Mr. Collen Kelapile, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Botswana to the United Nations, who recalled Botswana's assistance request submitted to the 1540 Committee in February 2021 and the subsequent preparation of a draft voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP). He expressed appreciation to participating partners from Japan, South Africa, the United States, the European Union and international organisations and invited all participants to provide inputs and feedback that could be considered to refine and finalize the NAP. Opening statements were delivered by Mr Ioan Tudor, Chief of WMD Branch, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Mr Todd Perry, Special Coordinator for resolution 1540 (2004) at the Department of State of the United States and Mr Stefan Tressing from the European Union (EU). The Chair of the 1540 Committee, H.E. Mr. Juan Ramón de la Fuente, delivered a keynote address.

The substantive sessions included a brief review of the status of Botswana's implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), a presentation of the draft 1540 NAP prepared by an inter-agency team led by Botswana's Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological Weapons Management Authority (CBNRMA), presentations by international partners who have submitted offers of assistance through the 1540 Committee's matchmaking mechanism and interactive discussions on the draft NAP.

Around 150 representatives from various Government authorities and institutions, together with representatives of States and international organisations, participated in the event. The workshop provided an opportunity to enhance coordination between the relevant Botswana authorities and with and among international partners to ensure the effective provision of assistance and to avoid any unnecessary overlaps. It also illustrated the key role of the Committee in coordinating and matching requests with offers of assistance.

Additional Comments

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