

Information Note¹

Event: National Workshop on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Cameroon

Organizer: Government of Cameroon with the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Date and Venue: 12-14 September 2023, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Participants:

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Ministry of Defence - Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development - Ministry of Energy and Water Resources - Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development - Ministry of External Relations (Including the CWC National Authority, the BWC National Focal Point and the CBRN Focal Point) - Ministry of Finance - Ministry of Justice - Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries, and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) - Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINMIDT) - Ministry of Public Health - Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI) - Ministry of Trade - Ministry of Transport - Cameroon Customs - Centre Pasteur in Cameroon (CPC) - Directorate General for External Research (DGRE) - Gendarmerie Nationale - General Delegation for National Security (GDSN) - National Agency for Financial Investigation (NAFI) - National Ports Authority (APN) - National Public Health Laboratory (LNSP) - National Radiation Protection Agency (NRPA) - National Veterinary Laboratory (LANAVET) - Parliament of Cameroon;

Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) - INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Central Africa – Yaoundé - United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - World Customs Organization (WCO);

United Nations' Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA);
1540 Committee Expert.

Background

By means of a letter dated 12 July 2023, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations invited the 1540 Committee to co-host the national workshop on implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) which aimed to develop a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan. This event was relevant with the following resolution 1540 (2004) Operative Paragraphs:

- OP1: Reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution;

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.

- OP8: Again encourages States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation actions 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;
- OP9: Encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of relevant expertise, to continue to actively engage in dialogue with Member States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation;
- OP10: Stresses the importance of a tailored dialogue and engagement of the 1540 Committee with Member States that recognizes specificity of States with regard to implementation and reporting, as well as to improve the development of customized assistance for effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- OP25: 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

Highlights

The workshop brought together nearly 60 participants from 35 ministries and agencies in charge of security, external relations, trade, mining, energy, customs, transportations, health, agriculture, finance, science and technology and others. The active engagement of relevant government authorities demonstrated Cameroon's commitment to the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The event provided a good platform for the Cameroon to analyse the current status of its implementation of the resolution, prioritize its actions and coordinate amongst its government authorities. It also provided an opportunity for international participating partners to understand better Cameroon's implementation needs and engage in tailor made dialogues. The workshop itself and the visits to the Pasteur Institute of Cameroon and the National Laboratory of Public Health provided concrete opportunities to raise awareness on resolution 1540 (2004) and the progress made over the past years, also to identify some of the challenges towards the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). It illustrated the relevance of the resolution for Cameroon and the role of relevant national stakeholders, as well as the need to further enhance coordination among national authorities and cooperation with international partners. The 1540 Committee Expert raised awareness on how the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) can contribute to securing Member States from being exploited by non-State actors for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons purposes. It was also pointed out the importance of a tailored dialogue and engagement of the 1540 Committee with Member States, recognizing the specificity of States with regard to implementation. Finally, it was finally promoted the Committee's assistance mechanism for matching requests with offers of assistance as well as raised the need for coordination with other CBRN Action Plans.

Additional Comments

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