

Information Note¹

- Event:** Strengthening cross-border capacity for control and detection of CBRN substances in the North Africa and Sahel region (Project 55 – Fronsec)
– Event addressed to Niger
- Organizer:** European Union CBRN Centre of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE), with the support of UNICRI and Expertise France
- Date and Venue:** 28 July 2022, virtual event
- Participants:** Representatives of Niger’s Ministry of Environment Directorate, Civil Protection Directorate, Scientific Police, Atomic Energy Authority

Background

On 28 June 2022, the Technical Director of the EU CBRN CoE Project 55, sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting the 1540 Committee Chair or a representative to participate in the second dialogue meeting on international capacity-building support addressed to Niger. This event aimed at contributing to strengthen cross-border capacity for control and detection of CBRN substances in the North Africa and Sahel region. This project has been implemented, on behalf of the European Commission, by a consortium led by Expertise France.

This meeting was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee with regard to the following operative paragraphs (OPs) of resolution 1540 (2004) and follow-up:

- Resolution 1977 (2011) OP5(b) encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to continue to participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional and national level.
- Resolution 2325 (2016) OP1 reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully and effectively that resolution;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) OP12 decides that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), through its Programme of Work, which includes the compilation and general examination of information on the status of States’ implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and addresses all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of that resolution, particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to

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- biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) OP22 encourages the Committee to develop, in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations, assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in order to facilitate the prompt and direct response to assistance requests.

Highlights

The webinar took place on 28 July 2022 and was carried out in French. This event provided representatives of Niger with the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of resolution 1540 (2004) and its obligations, as well as to share experiences and effective practices on border and export controls. The meeting was attended by about 10 government participants, including representatives from Niger's Ministry of Environment Directorate, Civil Protection Directorate, Scientific Police and Atomic Energy Authority.

The participation of the 1540 Expert was an opportunity to contribute to the workshop to enhance awareness of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular OP3c&d on border and export control measures.

The webinar was opened by Anne-Sophie Lequarré, European Commission Project 55's Technical Director. She recalled the purpose of the Project 55 that aims at improving cross-border capacities in North Africa and Sahel region for control and detection of CBRN substances, including by completing national legislations to comply with diverse relevant international conventions. She highlighted the proactive approach of Niger in that framework.

The 1540 Expert described resolution 1540 (2004)'s key obligations, especially on OP3c-d purview dealing with border and export controls (export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export, as well as the provision of funds and services that could contribute to proliferation). He discussed Niger's matrix as approved by the Committee in December 2020 and contributed to the discussion of the national review and recommendations. He noted that Niger's analysis had emphasized the importance of the establishment of a national control list related to nuclear, biological and chemical related materials. The Expert promoted 1540 Committee's tool kit in support of resolution 1540 implementation effort, such as national reporting, Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs) and the assistance mechanism.

Provision of assistance to States has been identified as a key element of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and other international obligations relating to CBRN, including in an international or regional format. For this reason, Niger has been participating in the CoE Project 55 dedicated to CBRN related risks in North Africa and the Sahel region.

Additional Comments

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