

Information Note to the UNSC 1540 Committee

- Event:** Sub-regional training of trainers’ workshop on proliferation financing, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
- Organizers:** Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA)
- Date and Venue:** 23 and 24 September 2021, on a Zoom platform
- Participants:** Representatives from the Governments of Burkina Faso, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Benin, Republic of Cape Verde, Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Mali, Republic of Niger, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sierra Leone, São Tomé and Príncipe, Republic of Togo, UN Office of Drugs and Crime, Royal United Services Institute, London, and 1540 Experts.

Objectives of Participation of the 1540 Expert

- To provide a presentation to the training of trainers’ workshop on the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) relating to proliferation financing, differentiating the requirements from those of UN resolutions imposing targeted financial sanctions;
- To describe the status of implementation in the region of relevant 1540 measures, based on updated Committee matrix data;
- To contribute to discussions as required.

Background

By means of a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee dated 6 September 2021, the Director General of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) requested that a representative of the Committee makes a presentation on the UN Counter Proliferation financing frameworks and relevant issues linked to proliferation financing risks, especially in the context of West Africa, to a training of trainers’ workshop on proliferation financing, 23-24 September. The workshop took place during the Annual Typologies Meetings of the GIABA Risk, Trends and Methods Group and the Policy Review Group.

The focus of the workshop was to provide to GIABA's Member States representatives with the opportunity to enhance their compliance with the relevant United Nations counter proliferation financing instruments and frameworks as well as FATF Standards.

This meeting was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee with regards to the following operative paragraphs (OPs) of resolution 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016):

- Under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004), all States must adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor from financing activities related to manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. In addition, under operative paragraph 3, all States must 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 and, under operative paragraph 3(d), all States must establish appropriate effective national controls on providing funds and services related to export and transshipment of such items, including financing. All States are required to establish and enforce appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations.
- Under operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2325 (2016) the 1540 Committee is asked to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), paying particular attention to, inter alia, proliferation finance measures.

Highlights

The workshop was opened by Mr Mamodou Saho, Co-Chair of the GIABA Policy Review Group. He emphasized the importance of this event in the context of Money Laundering (ML), Proliferation Financing (PF) and Terrorism Financing (TF) issues that require continuous efforts and coordination amongst Member States' national stakeholders to face this challenge. The workshop was intended to support countries in building their capacity to conduct assessment of their own ML, TF and PF risks. General principles and concepts of risk assessments would be provided to countries, as well as a framework to carry out their own ML, TF and PF risk assessment activities in conjunction with their specific needs.

GIABA's Director of Policy & Research gave an overview of PF issues, noting that many countries did not perform well against FATF's requirements for reasons that included a) failing to prioritise PF as an issue of concern; b) a lack of understanding of the requirements; c) lack of mechanisms to implement TFS; and d) complexities associated with the requirements. Following a detailed presentation on the "Fundamentals of Proliferation Financing" by the GIABA Secretariat, a 1540 Expert described the PF requirements of resolution 1540, highlighting the differences with targeted

financial sanctions and analysing data on implementation in the region. Subsequent presentations covered UN Security Council PF targeted financial sanctions, FATF's PF requirements and elements of PF national risk assessments. Participants also completed an exercise to identify and assess possible elements of a PF national risk assessment.

Additional Comments

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