

Information Note¹

Event: Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) Among IGAD Member States

Organizer: Government of Kenya, United Nations Office for Disarmament (UNODA), and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

Date and Venue: 14-15 March, Nairobi, Kenya

Participants:

States: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Spain, United States of America

International, Regional and Subregional organizations: UNSCR 1540 Committee, Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (ISU-BWC), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UNODA, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center (UNCCT), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Customs Organization (WCO), IGAD, Africa Center for Disease Control and prevention (Africa CDC), African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), and Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO)

Civil Society Organizations: African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICIS), Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET), Verification Research, Training and Information Center (VERTIC)

Background

- In a letter dated 1 February 2023, H.E. Mr Martin Kimani, Ambassador of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations invites the Chair of the 1540 Committee, to deliver Opening Remarks at a Workshop on Strengthening the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in the IGAD region to be held on 14-15 March 2023 in Nairobi. This event is organized through financial contributions from the Government of Spain. Ambassador Kimani also invited the Chair to nominate members of the Committee's Group of Experts to make presentations on various aspects of resolution 1540 (2004) at the workshop.
- The objective of the workshop is to provide IGAD Member States with a platform to discuss the risks related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by non-State actors in the region, and exchange views on effective and sustainable approaches to address these risks through the implementation of 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.

1540 and related regimes. The workshop would enrich the understanding of States of the obligations under resolution 1540 and how it interrelates with the international and regional legally binding instruments on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other related regimes, as well as the functions of the 1540 Committee. The status of implementation of the resolution would be reviewed and States would provide updates on ongoing efforts at the national level, including progress made and challenges encountered. The workshop will further promote intra-regional cooperation through sharing of national experiences, good practices and lessons learned, and identify opportunities to enhance cooperation through IGAD, sub-regional specialized institutions, as well as through peer-reviews among States. It will also promote dialogue between States and the 1540 Committee on the implementation of the resolution by encouraging reporting and the designation of Points of Contact. Participating States will be briefed on the international assistance available by international organizations, specialized institutions, and partner States, and will discuss the specific needs of States in the region, identify opportunities to enhance the delivery of assistance, including through the 1540 Committee's assistance matchmaking mechanism.

- This workshop is of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee OP1, OP9, OP11, OP12, OP23 and OP 25 of resolution 2663 (2022).

Highlights

More than 50 representatives from various government ministries, national authorities, agencies, research institutes, together with representatives of international, regional and subregional organisations participated in this workshop. The active engagement of relevant government authorities demonstrated IGAD' and its member states' commitment to the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The workshop also provided an opportunity to raise awareness among diverse relevant representatives from member states of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), to identify common challenges and share national effective practices. It also offered opportunities for and among international partners to share information on their assistance programmes and plans.

The workshop was opened by Ambassador Fatuma Adan, Head of IGAD Mission to the Republic of Kenya. In her keynote address, she noted that the IGAD region was a source, transit, and destination of a wide range of common Transnational Security Threats (TSTs) and was one of the most conflict-prone and ravaged areas in Africa. She called on IGAD Member States to identify and seal up gaps in their legislative framework with a view to strengthening in- countries' security architecture, to meet up with global challenges, and prevent emerging threats from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) terrorism.

Mr Ismail Balla, Senior Political Affairs Officer and Head of the 1540 support Unit of UNODA delivered a statement at the opening session. He emphasized that UNODA was dedicated to designing, supporting, and implementing context-specific approaches to the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) then delivered his statement. He highlighted that this was the first occasion since he assumed the duty of 1540 Committee Chair in January 2023, to reach out to representatives from a subregion, to discuss and seek their support in the implementation of resolution 1540. He emphasized the significance of the adoption of resolution 1540 and pointed out that the resolution had become a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture. He stressed that the implementation of resolution 1540 is a national function and responsibility and also pointed out the regime set up by resolution 1540 concern all States. The threat posed by non-state actors acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction and related material, does not recognize borders. He briefly introduced the latest Comprehensive Review and pointed out that full implementation of resolution 1540 remained a long-term task. In this context, he introduced briefly the Committee's tool kit and assistance mechanism and committed that the Committee stood ready to provide and match-making assistance that MS might need in implementing the resolution.

Dr. Raymond Ojwang' Omollo – Principal Secretary, State Department for Internal Security and National Administration, Ministry of Interior and National Administration of Kenya, delivered his statement. He pointed out that global security order was facing increasing threats, such as armed conflict, terrorists, and organized crime, etc. Kenya had played a key role in preventing transnational crimes and committed fully to WMD disarmament and Non-Proliferation. Kenya also held a strong belief that the proliferation efforts should not impact developments.

In the following discussion sessions, the participants had heard presentations from 1540 Committee Experts on the basics of Resolution 1540 (2004), the detailed obligations as stipulated in OP2 and OP3 of the resolution, the Committee's toolkit in facilitating the implementation including assistance mechanism, matrix, national report, etc. The participating member states presented the implementation status and discussed challenges and ways forward. The Participating International, regional, subregional organizations also presented on substantive matters that are relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and their assistance programmes.

On the margins of the workshop, Ambassador Hernán Pérez Loose, Chair of the 1540 Committee, held bilateral meetings with all 7 countries from the IGAD region. The chair also met with the representatives from participating international, regional, and subregional organizations.

Additional comments

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