

Information Note¹

- Events:** Side-event on Export Control in Africa in the context of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), organised on the margins of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- Organizers:** Hosted by the Government of Latvia
- Date and Venue:** 17 August 2022, Trusteeship Council, UN Headquarters
- Participants:** Representatives from the Governments of Latvia and Botswana
National delegates participating in the NPT Review Conference
1540 Committee Expert

Background

On 24 June 2022, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations invited the Committee to nominate a member of the Group of Experts to participate in a side event organised by Latvia on the margins of the upcoming Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). According to the invitation, the side event would focus on export controls in Africa in the context of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) with the aim to enrich the understanding of participants of the obligations under the resolution. Furthermore, the event would contribute to the exchange of effective practices regarding implementing export controls, taking into account the unique set of challenges and conditions of different countries. In addition, the discussion would help develop ideas and proposals regarding the further promotion of non-proliferation and export control efforts in Africa.

This side event was of 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 requires all States to 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.

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.

- Operative paragraph 1 of resolution 2325 (2016) reiterates the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully and effectively that resolution.
- Operative paragraph 29 of resolution 2325 (2016) 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 side-event was opened by Mr. Peteris Filipsons from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations, who noted his country's long-standing commitment to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). He emphasised that achieving the resolution's non-proliferation goals, including in relation to export controls, requires an approach which is tailored to the particular needs of States and regions. Drawing on Latvia's experience in chairing some of the multilateral export control regimes and its cooperation with States in Africa and elsewhere in the area of export controls, this side-event was aimed at raising awareness about opportunities and challenges for strengthening export controls in Africa, particularly in the context of 1540 commitments.

Mr. Nauris Rumpe, Executive Secretary of the Control Committee for Strategic Goods of Latvia and Dr. Janes Mokgadi, Deputy Director at the Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Weapons Management Authority of Botswana shared their national experiences in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and highlighted some of the challenges facing particularly countries that are not major producers of "related materials" in the context of resolution.

A 1540 Committee Expert delivered a presentation on the key obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), particularly those related to border and export controls. The presentation also provided an overview of the status of implementation with specific reference to Africa, as well as information on the Committee's assistance mechanism and other tools aimed at supporting States in their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The side-event illustrated the value of sharing experiences, lessons learnt and effective practices in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), which may assist States to identify options and approaches to national implementation best suited to their national and regional circumstances.

Additional Comments

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