

Information Note¹

- Event:** Regional Export Control Conference for Southern African Partners “Enhancing Export Control Capacities of Third Countries for Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) Worldwide 2023”.
- Organizer:** Government of Germany, Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA)
- Date and Venue:** 8 – 9 June 2023, Livingstone, Zambia
- Participants:** Government representatives from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia
Representatives from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), US Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), US State Department's Export and Border Security Program (EXBS)
1540 Committee Expert

Background

On 27 April 2023, the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations sent a Note Verbale to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting him to nominate a member of the Group of Experts to participate in the regional export control conference for Southern African States, and to make a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004).

The aim of the conference was to bring together high-level representatives and decision-makers from different States in Southern Africa and to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), focusing on national export and trans-shipment controls for dual-use items. The conference took place in the framework of the new project funded by Germany “Enhancing Export Control Capacities of Third Countries for Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) Worldwide 2023”.

This conference was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee with regard to resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions as follows:

- Resolution 1540 (2004): OP 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.
- Resolution 2663 (2022): OP 1 reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution. OP 11

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.

encourages Member States to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). OP 12 reiterates that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) [...] particularly noting the need for more attention, among others, on national export and transshipment controls. OP 25 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, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

Highlights

The Regional Export Control Conference for Southern Africa took place as the first event in the framework of the German national project "Enhancing Export Control Capacities of Third Countries for Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) worldwide 2023". The aim of this project is to support Member States in implementing the obligations of UNSCR 1540 (2004) with regard to export controls. The purpose of that event was to inform the participating countries about the project, to assess their needs and interest in receiving support and to offer cooperation within the project.

59 representatives from nine countries participated in the two-day event and were actively involved in the discussions on various topics. The agenda included presentations that highlighted the cornerstones of a dual-use export control system and the areas of potential cooperation: legal foundations, control lists, licensing procedures and cooperation between different national actors. This was underscored by various best practice examples.

The regional conference enabled participating States to engage in focused discussions on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) with the main emphasis on export controls obligations. Participants were also able to exchange information on challenges experienced and lessons learned. Several assistance providers presented their offers of possible assistance and ways how to get appropriate support were discussed too. During the event, all participating States expressed great interest in further cooperation, support and similar events.

The conference also provided a valuable opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), including measures on export controls, which are binding on all UN Member States, as well as to provide information on the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism and other tools to support national implementation.

Additional comments

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