

Information Note¹

- Event:** Webinar to launch a policy brief entitled “Resolution 1540 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Policy Options to Strengthen Non-proliferation Controls and Secure Trade”
- Organizer:** South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and Venue:** 18 July 2023, virtually
- Participants:** Representatives of SAIIA and UNODA
Member of the 1540 Committee’s Group of Experts
Senior Legal Adviser of Pontica Group LLC and former member of the Group of Experts supporting the 1540 Committee in his capacity

Background

In a letter addressed to the Chair dated 22 June 2023, the Chief Executive at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), invited the 1540 Committee Chair to deliver keynote remarks at the webinar to launch a policy brief entitled “Resolution 1540 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Policy Options to Strengthen Non-proliferation Controls and Secure Trade”.

The event was of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) and its follow-up resolutions as follows:

- Operative paragraph 3 of resolution 1540 (2004) 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. This includes the obligation to develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat the illicit trafficking and brokering in such items. It also requires States to establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items, including appropriate laws and regulations to control export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export and controls on providing funds and services related to such export and trans-shipment such as financing, and transporting that would contribute to proliferation, as well as establishing end-user controls; and establishing and enforcing appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.
- Operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2663 (2022) reiterates the Security Council decision 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

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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 biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls.

- Operative paragraph 25 of resolution 2663 (2022) 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

This webinar provided a valuable opportunity to remind participants of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), 2325 (2016) and 2663 (2022) particularly in the area of border and export controls, the status of implementation in Africa. It was underlined that effective implementation of resolution 1540 offers significant advantages with respect to the establishment and consolidation of a zone of peace, security, stability and development at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The event highlighted some of the implementation challenges, particularly for African States, and explored how the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) can contribute to securing the African continental free trade area from being exploited by non-State actors for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons purposes. It was also stressed the importance of a tailored dialogue and engagement of the 1540 Committee with Member States and recognized the specificity of States with regard to implementation and reporting.

The webinar participants were provided with keynote remarks of the Chair of the 1540 Committee to launch a policy brief entitled “Resolution 1540 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Policy Options to Strengthen Non-Proliferation Controls and Secure Trade”.

Additional Comments

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