

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

**Events:** African Regional Webinar on Facilitating Adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment (CPPNM/A)

**Organizers:** Hosted by the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICSIS) headquartered in Accra, Ghana, and funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

**Date and Venue:** 17-18 January 2023, Virtual event

**Participants:** *Representatives from African States:*  
Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

*International representatives:*  
Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA), The African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), United Nations Regional Economic Community (UNREC), African Network for Enhancing Nuclear Power Programme Development (ANENP), European Safeguards and Development Association (ESARDA), International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), European Union CBRN Center of Excellence, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna Center for Disarmament and Nonproliferation (VCDNP), U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA), United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), US Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (DOS/ISN)IAEA, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
1540 Committee Expert

### **Background**

In a letter dated 11 January 2023 addressed to the former Chair of the 1540 Committee, Mr. Hubert K. Foy, Director of the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICSIS) and Senior Research Scientist with the Project on Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation, extended an invitation to members of the Committee's Group of Experts to participate in an African Regional Webinar on Facilitating Adherence to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Material and its Amendment (CPPNM/A). The webinar was held online from 17 to 18 January 2023 and was intended for senior government officials and legislators from 24 African countries not yet party to either the original CPPNM or its Amendment. It aimed to deepen the understanding of participants from African countries on the international nuclear security framework and to promote discussions on related issues including adherence to and strengthening of legislative and technical implementation of nuclear security instruments.

This webinar was of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) as follows:

- Resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties, or have made other commitments aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and have taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials, such as those required by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.
- Operative paragraph 1 of resolution 1540 (2004) requires 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, States are obliged to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws prohibiting such activities by non-State actors on their territories. Operative paragraph 3 requires 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 measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport; effective physical protection measures; effective border controls and law enforcement efforts; 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 end-user controls; and criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.
- The 1987 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), its 2005 Amendment, as well as the International Convention of the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) implement important elements of these operative paragraphs.
- Operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2663 (2022) reiterates the Security Council's decision that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ... 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.
- Furthermore, 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 level ... and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

### **Highlights**

The webinar was opened by Mr. Hubert Foy, Director, African Center for Science and International Security, Ghana, who welcomed participants from African States and international

experts. Other participants in the opening session included Mr. Enobot Agboraw, Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, Ms. Einas Mohammed, 1540 Regional Coordinator for Africa at UNODA, and Mr. Oscar Castillo, Deputy CBRN International and Programmes Team at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK, who all emphasised the importance of nuclear security for national and international security, as well as the relevance of the subject for African States, including in the context of the provisions of the Pelindaba Treaty and the expansion of the nuclear sector in Africa.

The agenda covered the international legal framework for nuclear security, regional status and perspectives on adherence and implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment (A/CPPNM), the importance and benefits of adherence to the A/CPPNM and other legal nuclear security instruments, national experiences on adherence and implementation, as well as legislative and technical assistance programmes.

While the webinar focused on adherence to and implementation of the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment, as well as the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), it also provided an opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), including those related to nuclear security, the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism and other tools to support States in the implementation of their obligations. Presentations illustrated the differences between the respective nuclear security instruments, but also the complementary nature of resolution 1540 (2004) and overlaps with provisions under other international instruments. The need for co-ordination in the delivery of effective assistance to requesting States was emphasised. Participants also shared some of the challenges experienced in relation to adherence and the implementation of the respective nuclear security instruments, including the lack of awareness about the relevance and potential benefits of such instruments, conflicting priorities and lack of adequate resources.

### **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).