

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

Event: Preparatory meeting for the 2016 African Union 1540 Assistance Conference

Organizer: African Union Commission (AU)

Date and venue: 24-25 September 2015, Vienna, Austria

Participants: India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, South Africa, United States of America, European Union (EU)

Peace and Security Department of the African Union (AU) Commission, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 1540 Group of Experts, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), World Health Organization (WHO), Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

### 1. **Background**

Resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing its provisions and invites States, in a position to do so, to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests from States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources.

In its 2014 Annual Review, the 1540 Committee recognised the commitment of some regional and sub-regional organizations to helping their members implement the resolution and suggested that the Committee considers supporting regional approaches to assistance, such as through regional assistance meetings. Also, the 14<sup>th</sup> Programme of Work of the Committee calls for the consideration of regional approaches to meeting assistance needs.

The African Union (AU) Commission will convene a 1540 assistance conference early in 2016 in Addis Ababa, bringing together AU Member States, and especially those that have requested assistance, as well as assistance providers in order to mobilize support for and

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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.

match assistance requests and offers. In this context, the AU Commission convened a preparatory meeting for the 2016 AU 1540 Assistance Conference, which was held from 24-25 September 2015 in Vienna, Austria.

## 2. **Highlights and discussions**

The objectives of this preparatory meeting included discussing potential offers and direct responses to assistance requests to be announced during the 2016 Conference. Also, the preparatory meeting was informed about 1540 related initiatives in Africa, and provided a platform for the assistance providers to inform the preparatory meeting of their 1540 related initiatives in Africa. The preparatory meeting also exchanged views on the conduct of, and agenda for, the 2016 African Assistance Conference.

Sessions were held dealing with the objectives of the AU 1540 Assistance Conference; overview of 1540 related activities in Africa; provisional analysis of the updated matrices for African States; analysis of the 1540 assistance requests submitted by African States; overview of 1540 relevant interaction with African States and possible deliverables for the 2016 AU 1540 Assistance Conference, and; a discussion was held on the draft programme and agenda for the Assistance Conference.

Discussions were held on the draft concept paper and agenda for the 2016 AU 1540 Assistance conference. The AU Commission outlined the objectives and indicated that all African Union Member States will be invited, with a specific focus on facilitating the participation of those 14 African States that requested assistance. Also, the regional economic communities will be invited to the conference.

In terms of the agenda, the two day conference will include general briefings on resolution 1540 (2004), including on assistance, and will provide international and regional organisations the opportunity to inform the conference of their 1540 relevant activities in Africa. Meetings will also be held with those 14 African States that requested assistance from the 1540 Committee.

## 3. **Additional Comments**

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