

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

<b>Event:</b>	Workshop for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) for French-speaking Member States
<b>Organizers:</b>	UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), in collaboration with the Government of Gabon
<b>Date and venue:</b>	21-22 March 2014, Libreville, Gabon
<b>Participants:</b>	Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Mali and Mauritania
<b>Observer:</b>	United States of America

### 1. Objectives for the participation of 1540 Committee experts

- Raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among participants, highlighting the status of reports submitted to the 1540 Committee so far, and underscoring the importance of formally establishing a dialogue with the 1540 Committee through the submission of a report for States that have not yet done so;
- Assist participating States in their preparation of an initial report, with the support of Gabon and Congo that shared their experience in this area.

### 2. Background

- Resolution 1977 (2001) *"again calls upon all States that have not yet presented a first report on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement resolution 1540 (2004) to submit such a report to the Committee without delay"*;
- At the date of the workshop, 171 States had submitted at least one report to the Committee; twenty-two States had not yet done so;
- The workshop gathered all eight French-speaking States that have not yet submitted a report. Two other workshops for non-reporting States are planned in 2014: one for English-speaking States in Pretoria, and one for Portuguese-speaking States.

### 3. Highlights

The opening session was moderated by UNREC Director.

Opening statements were delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Isoze Ngondet and by a 1540 Committee expert and by a representative of UNODA.

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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 organisers or participants in the event.

The 1540 Committee experts presented resolution 1540 (2004) and the role of the 1540 Committee, including its clearinghouse function for assistance and its mandate to cooperate with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The 1540 Committee experts described activities by the Committee and its experts to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States. They experts stated the objective of universality promoted by the Chair, recalling that States that have not yet submitted a report are encouraged to do so without delay. The 1540 Committee experts shared their views on the elements that may appear in national reports and on benefits States can get from submitting a report and thus establishing a dialogue with the 1540 Committee.

Gabon and Congo shared their national experience in preparing an initial report and in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). This sharing of experience was particularly welcomed by the participants.

The 1540 Committee experts met on a bilateral basis with each of the eight States that have not submitted a report , in order to discuss in concrete terms the preparation of a report.

#### 4. Outcome

Most participants produced a draft report and presented it in the last plenary session. Those who did not prepare a draft report announced their intention to produce one as soon as possible.