

# Information Note<sup>1</sup>

**Event:** “Promoting Regional Security and Development with International Security Assistance: A Legal-Regulatory Workshop on Strategic Trade Controls.”

**Date and Location:** 20-22 September, Nairobi, Kenya

**Organizers or Sponsors:** Governments of Kenya and the United States, with the assistance of the Henry L. Stimson Center and the Center for International Trade and Security of the University of Georgia (UGA/CITS) and the US Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Assistance Program

**Participants:** *States:* Kenya and the United States  
*International Organizations:* United Nations (UNODC Regional Office and 1540 Committee)  
*Others:* African Peace Forum, Institute for Strategic Studies (South Africa), Stimson Center, UGA/CITS

## 1. Objectives for participating in the workshop

“The East African region is of utmost strategic importance to global efforts to prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 is the prime international WMD terrorism nonproliferation tool to achieve this objective, and as such, the Resolution will be a central theme during the meeting.”

## 2. Background

Since 2006, the Henry L. Stimson Center has had a close relationship with the 1540 Committee and its experts, as well as UNODA. It has organized many meetings worldwide to promote implementation of the resolution. Similarly, the letter of support for the invitation comes from the new head of the US EXBS program, another major provider of official government assistance on implementation of resolution 1540.

In Paragraph 11 of Resolution 1977 (2011), the 1540 Committee is encouraged to conduct dialogue with states, including through invited visits to States. This workshop helped sustain the dialogue with States in the region developed in bilateral dialogues with Kenyan biosafety and biosecurity authorities in Nairobi in February 2010, and with Kenyan officials on resolution 1540 in Cairo in December 2009, among other discussions.

## 3. Highlights

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<sup>1</sup> For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the view of the 1540 Committee nor of the organizers or participants in the workshop.

The Kenyan government demonstrated their serious interest in strategic trade controls in a very practical way: the full participation of representatives of thirteen (13) Kenyan agencies throughout the three day workshop. The participants discussed perceptions on local security issues and the need for strategic trade controls, the transit of sensitive items through Kenyan territory or ports of entry, the status of nuclear security in Africa, possible training needs for improving border and export controls in Kenya and the region, and the recent changes in the Kenyan Revenue Authority Customs Service.

In this meeting as in many others, officials of the host and other participating governments stressed the importance of developing strong inter-agency mechanisms to implement the resolution. However, while how these inter-agency networks emerge – building on existing counter-terrorism or other inter-agency bodies, establishing a new mechanism, relying on informal bonds among key agencies – the focus of most assistance projects treat this need largely as an ancillary effect of other kinds of training.

#### **4. Additional comments**

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