

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

- Events:** 1540 Committee visit to Niger, at the invitation of its Government
- Organizer:** Government of Niger
- Date and Venue:** 14-17 January 2014, Niamey and Torodi, Niger
- Participants:** Minister of the Interior, in his capacity as interim Minister of National Defence.

Representatives of the Presidency of the Republic; Ministry of Defence (including Niger 1540 National Focal Point); Ministry of Interior (including the General Directorate of National Police); Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and of Nigeriens abroad; Ministry of Finance (including the General Directorate of Customs); Ministry of Health (Centre National de Radioprotection (CNRP)); Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Energy and Oil; Ministry of Higher Education; Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Mines and Industrial Development; Ministry of Transport; National Unit for the Processing of Financial Information (CENTIF).

*Civil society, private sector and academia:* Chamber of Commerce of Niger; Collectif pour la Défense du droit à l'énergie (CODDAE) ; Institut de Radio-Isotopes IRI/ Université Abdou Moumouni; Réseau des Associations des Consommateurs du Niger (RASCONI) ; SOMAIR; TN International.

*International, regional and sub-regional organizations:* 1540 Committee (Ms. Sophie Nzeyimana, Rwanda) and two 1540 Committee experts; United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

### 1. Objectives

- Raise awareness of resolution 1540 (2004) among relevant national stakeholders.
- Analyze the implementation resolution 1540 (2004) in Niger.
- Facilitate gap analysis and identification of assistance needs.
- Discuss future steps by Niger, including the submission of an additional report and the option of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan.

### 2. Background

Resolution 1977 (2011) encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation.

---

<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. A more comprehensive report was submitted to the 1540 Committee by the experts.

Since the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee has conducted visits to Albania, Burkina Faso, Grenada, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.

A note from the Permanent Mission of Niger to the United Nations extended a formal invitation to the 1540 Committee and its Group of experts to undertake a visit to Niger from 14 to 17 January 2014, following a preparatory meeting in Niamey on 13 January 2014.

The invitation evolved from the bilateral consultation between representatives of Niger and the 1540 Committee experts at the Workshop for African States held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 21 to 22 November 2012, during which the possibility of a country visit was discussed.

The invitation also builds on the recent designation of a 1540 focal point by Niger and an active dialogue between him and the 1540 Committee experts.

The program was prepared by the Government of Niger, in liaison with the 1540 Committee experts.

### **3. Overview**

The mission to Niger included two site visits: to the customs office in Torodi, and to the CTBTO (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization) National Data Centre. The visit was characterized by strong coordination between Niger's 1540 Focal Point, Colonel Bako Boubacar, and the 1540 Committee experts.

The Government of Niger demonstrated its commitment to the success of the visit and spared no efforts, devoting significant human and financial resources to support the success of the mission.

During the mission the authorities of Niger supported the work of the 1540 delegation and participated in the interactive debates. As a result of the discussions, the participating authorities agreed on a draft National Implementation Action Plan.

#### **3.1. Opening session**

During the opening session the Minister of the Interior, in his capacity as interim Minister of National Defence, expressed his appreciation to the 1540 Chair for the 1540 Committee visit. He indicated that the visit was in line with the Strategy for the Development and Security in Sahel-Saharan Areas of Niger (SDS/SAHEL-NIGER).

Ms. Sophie Nzeyimana (Rwanda) delivered the opening statement on behalf of the 1540 Committee.

#### **3.2. Working sessions**

The 1540 experts made four presentations:

- United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004): an instrument against the proliferation of WMD and development;

- The role of the 1540 Committee: assistance and capacity building for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- The 1540 Matrix (Niger);
- National Implementation Action Plans.

In general terms, during all the working sessions participants engaged diligently in the debates and shared with the 1540 Committee delegation relevant information related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Participants discussed the appropriate national coordination mechanism for handling 1540 related issues.

It was noted that Niger is party to most of relevant international instruments in the nuclear area, including the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Participants also shared information on existing legislation related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including Law 98-011 which creates the National regulatory authority, *Centre National de Radioprotection* (CNRP), Law 2006-17 on Nuclear Safety and Security and on Protection against ionizing radiations and Law 2006-18 which modifies Law 98-011. The CNRP is responsible for controlling the export and import of nuclear materials and radioactive sources.

Regarding the obligations related to countering proliferation financing, a representative of the National Unit for the Processing of Financial Information (CENTIF), referred to Niger's law 2010-05 (21 January 2010) regarding counter-terrorism financing.

A presentation was made by a representative of TN International regarding the transportation of uranate in Niger.

A representative of UNICRI also made a presentation on the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative and on their efforts in West Africa.

### **3.3. Discussions on the Development of National Implementation Action Plan**

As a result of the visit the participants agreed on a draft action plan which identifies goals to be undertaken during the 2014-2019 period. The National Implementation Action Plan will be submitted to the 1540 Committee in due time.

### **3.4. Site visits**

#### **3.4.1. Customs office (Torodi)**

The 1540 delegation visited the customs office in Torodi, on the main road connecting Niger and Burkina Faso. The Deputy-Head of the office and his team described the role of the customs in

controlling transportation activities on the road, and their efforts to curb all kinds of illicit trafficking.

### **3.4.2. CTBTO (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization) National Data Centre**

The national stakeholders and the 1540 Committee delegation visited the National Data Centre established in the framework of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

#### **4. Outcome**

Besides the fruitful exchange of information between Niger and the 1540 Committee delegation, the visit resulted in the adoption by the participants of a draft National Implementation Action Plan for the period 2014-2019. The draft National Implementation Action Plan identifies some areas in which Niger will require international assistance.

#### **5. Additional comments**

The UN press release is available at <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2014/dc3476.doc.htm> .

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee's Group of experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org), or Niger's National Focal Point (contact information: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/national-points-of-contact.shtml>).