

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

- Event:** The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Stakeholders Forum for States Parties in Africa on Adoption of National Implementing Legislation
- Organizer:** Tanzania and the OPCW
- Date and Venue:** 8-10 November 2016, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Participants:** *States:* Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda  
*International Organisations:* East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), United Nations 1540 Committee Group of Experts, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)  
*Non-Governmental organisations*  
Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)

### Background

The Stakeholders Forum for States Parties in Africa on Adoption of National Implementing Legislation is a pilot event aimed at helping the States Parties to the CWC in Africa to advance the status of their national implementing legislation. As of 2016, Africa is a region where most of the States have yet to adopt national implementing legislation with all initial measures. According to the OPCW, as of today, 41% of States Parties in the region do not yet have CWC implementing legislation at all and another 15% have only initial measures within their legislation.

The Forum was intended to provide a platform for discussion of the significance of the CWC national legislation and the steps to be taken for its adoption. The Forum gathered representatives of the relevant key stakeholders from governments, parliaments, and other state agencies from the States Parties without national implementing legislation, as well as from those States Parties which can share good practices in development and adoption of such legislation.

On 22 September 2016, Director General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting a representative of the Group of Experts assisting the Committee to take part in the meeting.

### Overview

The Stakeholders Forum in Africa on Adoption of National Implementing Legislation, funded by the European Union and co-hosted by The Government of

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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 United Republic of Tanzania and the OPCW, was organised as a pilot event, which was developed to complement the efforts of the OPCW's Technical Secretariat in providing legislative support to all States Parties of the CWC. The Forum was attended by 45 representatives from 11 African Member States, who actively discussed relevant challenges as well as mitigation strategies in the legislative adoption process.

International and regional organisations contributed information during the event about the kinds of technical assistance they can offer. These presentations were made by EAC, SADC, United Nations 1540 Committee, UNICRI, and PGA.

The 1540 expert made a presentation on the complementarity between resolution 1540 (2004) and the CWC and provided an update on the status of implementation of the resolution. He recalled the basic obligations on all States under resolution 1540 (2004) to adopt, inter alia, legislation to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons and their means of delivery, including adoption and enforcement of appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking by non-State actors.

By the end of the meeting Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda and Tanzania developed roadmaps for the adoption of national implementing legislation containing assistance requirements.

#### **Additional Comments**

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