

IDENTIFICATION OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICES TO IMPLEMENT UNSCR 1540: NEXT STEPS

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UNSCR 1540

- The threat of the use of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors is perhaps the gravest threat confronting the National and in international peace and security
- One of the serious challenges facing international security today
- In 2004, the UNSC, acting under Chapter VII, adopted Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540)

Mandate of UNSCR 1540

- Enacting of legislation
 - Laws target manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transfer WMD, their means of delivery as well as activities, assistance, or financial support
- Take effective measures to prevent non-state actors, and terrorist groups in particular, from obtaining weapons of mass destruction
- Reporting on measures states have taken to fulfil the substantive requirements of the resolution

Current status

- Most African states lack the technology that could contribute to serious proliferation threats
- However, the continuous civil wars on the continent make it a soft target to terrorist activities
- Certain countries have been or are suspected of being involved in proliferation
- Africa also has the highest proportion of states not yet having presented their compliance reports to the 1540 committee

challenges

- No legislation in most African countries
 - Lack political commitment
 - Many governments have failed to prioritize the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and other similar international treaties
 - Lack of resources
 - In most cases, it has been due to competing genuine priorities
- No national action plans

challenges

- Reporting
 - there were still 18 states in Africa yet to submit their first reports on the implementation of the resolution 1540
 - Reports have not been updated
- Lack of awareness
 - Despite the gains made raising of awareness is a continuous process that should be improved upon
- Civil society support?

Progress

- African union meeting on 1540 in 2013 is sign of hope
 - Will bring many states in the region on board increasing universality
 - action plans mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004)
 - Submission of action plans to the 1540 Committee
 - Much easier to adopt similar standards for licensing exports materials

Effective Practices

- Initiating and enhancing non proliferation studies in education system
 - Most universities in Africa do not offer such studies
- Reporting
 - Civil society is not currently involved in reporting
 - Civil society could supported to report on 1540 as in BWPP
 - Involving civil society in regional meetings as well

- Creating awareness
 - More involvement of civil society
 - Publish more information that reach the public
 - Media programs on 1540
- Redefining the non state actors
- Sharing of best practices: 1540
committee to come up with a document
of best practices

- Involvement of regional economic communities in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 e.g AU
- Identification of gaps in implementation of the resolution by continuous assessment
- Assistance is a key element to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) on some states.

Thank you