



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Side-event for African Parliaments: *Putting into practice the recommendations of the Abidjan seminar on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)*

27 October 2016 (10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)
Salle Genève, CCV Annexe, CICG

Concept note

On 22 and 23 February 2016, a regional seminar was held to promote the effective implementation in Africa of resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors. The seminar was organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, and with financial support from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The main purposes of the seminar were: to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to assess the risks related to weapons of mass destruction; and to take the necessary measures to reduce those risks in the African region. More than 90 people participated in the seminar, including 72 parliamentarians from 18 parliaments.

The seminar was the first opportunity for parliamentarians from the same continent to meet and address the complexity of the obligations and challenges around implementing the resolution. The seminar also allowed good practices to be identified so that the resolution can be effectively implemented in Africa. Those good practices constituted the IPU's contribution to the Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) (www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/R1540-e.pdf).

This side event follows up on the Abidjan seminar. It is designed to continue raising awareness of and mobilizing parliamentary action on resolution 1540 (2004) across the African region. All African parliaments are welcome to participate.

During the meeting, participants will receive information and guidance on Member State obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). They will discuss the possible roles and responsibilities of parliamentary '1540 focal points'. That role will include promoting resolution 1540 (2004) nationally, and establishing and maintaining contact with the relevant national and international authorities. Participants will also examine good practices on how to draft voluntary national action plans, develop and implement legislative and other oversight measures, and prepare national implementation reports. The event will also include: discussion of how to obtain appropriate information and ensure it is forwarded to all relevant MPs and staff; and how to work with government so as to implement the resolution more efficiently.

Expected outcome

Participants will have an opportunity to learn about current issues related to implementing resolution 1540 (2004). They will also be able to share their experience and inform their peers about what they have done since the Abidjan seminar. Finally the event should kick-start delivery of the recommendation to identify parliamentary 1540 focal points in order to sustain interest and information flow on the subject within national parliaments.

Format

The session will be an interactive debate between parliamentarians and experts. After introductory remarks, the floor will be open for an exchange of views facilitated by relevant experts. Interpretation will be in English and French.

#IPU135