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PRESS RELEASE

THE AU COMMISSION CONVENES A TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540

Addis Ababa, 18 November 2014: The Commission of the African Union (AU), in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), is convening a two-day training workshop on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), in Addis Ababa.

The training workshop, which opened today, is attended by AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). It aims to impart practical information, skills and guidance on Member States obligations under the operative paragraphs of the resolution, the role and responsibilities of National Points of Contact, as well as on best practices on how to elaborate voluntary National Action Plans (NAP), develop and implement legislative and other control measures, and prepare national reports on implementation.

In his opening remarks, the Director of the AU Commission Peace and Security Department, Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, emphasized that National Points of Contact have an important role to play in enhancing the implementation of the resolution through promoting it at the national level, establishing and maintaining contact with the relevant authorities, and serving as a link between the 1540 Committee and the national institutions. He stressed that resolution 1540 provides an opportunity to enhance overall security measures to address threats such as transnational organized crime, illicit trade and trafficking networks and terrorism.

On his part, the representative of UNREC, Mr. Botre D. Alain, emphasized UNREC's commitment to effective cooperation and partnerships with Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations, industry, scientific and other professional communities in Africa, to support the objectives of resolution 1540.

The training workshop, which will conclude tomorrow, is part of the overall AU's efforts to implement the Common African Defense and Security Policy, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2004, as well as the relevant provisions of the January 2013 Assembly decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa.

