Press Release

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – 2 April 2019: The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, held a training course for 1540 national Points of Contact from English-speaking African Union Member States, at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 28 March 2019. The training course was made possible through a financial contribution from the European Union.

It can be recalled that similar training for French-speaking African Union Member States was conducted at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 August 2018.

Through informative presentations and interactive sessions, the workshop enabled participants to gain in-depth knowledge of Resolution 1540 and their national obligations, understand the national frameworks required for its effective implementation, and exchange on the experiences and challenges in its implementation. The training also contributed to strengthening cooperation and interaction between Member States and the Committee, and enabled exchange of views on assistance to States in the implementation of their obligations, upon request, as provided for under resolution 1540 (2004).

The training course also equipped national points of contact with knowledge on how resolution 1540 interrelates with the international and regional legally binding instruments on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other related regimes. In this respect, experts from the relevant international organizations contributed to the course, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the Office of Export Control Cooperation at the U.S. Department of State.

The Commission remains committed to supporting the efforts of the Member States in the implementation of their obligations under Resolution 1540 (2004), including within the framework of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.472(XX), adopted by the 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU in January 2013, and the communique of the 584th meeting of the Peace and Security Council, held on 29 March 2016.