
Translated from Russian

Republic of Belarus

National framework document (road map) on additional measures to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Introduction

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), unanimously adopted on 28 April 2004, seeks to ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their means of delivery and related materials. The resolution is also an effective mechanism for keeping weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery out of the hands of terrorist organizations.

Security Council resolutions 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), which extended the mandate of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), confirmed the timeliness of the goals and objectives set forth in the resolution, as well as the need for its full implementation by all Member States of the United Nations.

Paragraph 4 of resolution 1810 (2008) encourages “all States to prepare on a voluntary basis summary action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee.”

Paragraph 8 of resolution 1977 (2011) encourages “all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee.”

Decision No. 8/11 of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) in Europe, adopted in Vilnius and entitled “Proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004),” tasked “the relevant decision-making bodies within their mandates to continue to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States, upon their requests, in the further implementation of Security Council

resolution 1540 (2004), in close co-ordination with the 1540 Committee to complement its efforts.”

In accordance with these recommendations, the Republic of Belarus has prepared, with assistance from OSCE and the 1540 Committee, a national framework document (road map) on additional implementation measures for Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The case for drafting a national framework document

Belarus supported the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). In 2004, 2005 and 2007, Belarus submitted reports to the 1540 Committee, as well as additional information on national measures to establish an export control system to oversee the transfer of goods and technology which could be used for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and other types of weapons.

At the same time, given the integrated and comprehensive nature of resolution 1540 (2004), more effective implementation of the resolution could be achieved by studying the experience of other States and international organizations, as well as through coordinated joint actions.

The drafting of a framework document would promote, inter alia:

- Enhanced national legislation on physical protection, accounting and security for nuclear, chemical, biological and other materials that could be used to design weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery
- An enhanced regulatory and legal export control framework and improved law enforcement practices in this area
- An expanded national system to train both government export control experts and company employees working in in-house systems
- Strengthened border capacity
- Expanded opportunities for technical and consultation assistance for government agencies involved in implementing resolution 1540 (2004)
- Improved coordination and inter-agency cooperation in this area
- Monitoring of the measures set out in resolution 1540 (2004).

An incremental approach

The national framework document is currently focused on two aspects of resolution 1540 (2004):

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- (1) Enhancing the export control system in light of the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and other international non-proliferation obligations;
 - (2) Enhancing accounting, security and control measures for materials that could be used to develop biological weapons.

Given that the national framework document should be an adaptable and flexible instrument, and applying an incremental approach, the document will be expanded subsequently to include provisions to enhance national legislation on physical protection, accounting, control and security for nuclear and chemical materials.

Institutional framework

The national framework document is being approved by the Belarusian Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation and Export Control.

A resolution 1540 (2004) inter-agency working group will be established under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to ensure effective implementation of the national framework document and coordination among the stakeholder ministries and agencies.

The inter-agency working group will meet as required, and at least once every three months.

Its primary objectives will be:

- National framework document implementation review and assessment;
- Drafting of annual national framework document implementation reports;
- Drafting of proposals for further incremental enhancement and expansion of the national framework document.

The contribution of the Republic of Belarus to strengthening international security and a global non-proliferation regime for weapons of mass destruction

Belarus has made a significant contribution to the strengthening of regional and international security and continues to take practical steps to that end.

Belarus, which was the first State to voluntarily give up possession of the nuclear weapons remaining on its territory following the break-up of the Soviet Union, acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State in 1993. In 1992, Belarus joined the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms and in 1996, it completed the removal of nuclear weapons from its territory.

A State party to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty since 1992, Belarus has removed from its territory 584 intermediate and shorter-range missiles that were subsequently destroyed at former Soviet test sites.

Belarus is also a founding subscribing State to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

In 1995, Belarus signed a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and acceded to the IAEA Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety.

Belarus is a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993 and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972.

Belarus ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 2000 and supports its early entry into force.

Belarus recognizes multilateral export control regimes as one instrument to deter illicit proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological materials, equipment and technologies used in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. A member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group since 2000, Belarus adheres to the Group's Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers in its decisions on the provision of controlled goods. In 2010, Belarus became a member of yet another export control regime, the Zangger Committee.

Belarus is making a significant contribution to international counter-terrorism efforts and participates in the global coalition against terrorism. It is a party to all major universal counter-terrorism treaties drafted in the context of the United Nations.

Belarus also supports the counter-terrorism efforts of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

In the First Committee of the General Assembly, Belarus initiated the adoption of a resolution on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons, which supplements resolution 1540.

Belarus consistently supports the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the framework of OSCE. In particular, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, during

the Belarusian Chairmanship, held a special session on non-proliferation in June 2005, which, for all intents and purposes, marked the start of OSCE involvement in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

National measures

Export control

A multi-tiered export control system that effectively addresses issues relating to prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has been in effect in Belarus since 1992.

The 2004 version of the Act on Export Controls of 6 January 1998 is the basic legislation relating to export controls. It sets out the legal bases and powers of government agencies and legal and natural persons in Belarus in the area of export controls, as well as the purposes, fundamental principles and concepts of the export control system and lists of controlled goods (labour, services).

Since 1992, Belarus has adopted a number of Government Decisions and Presidential Decrees which have shaped the national export control system. Lists of specific goods (labour, services) have been drawn up; an effective export and import licensing system for such outputs has been established; a national licensing body and inter-agency coordinating body have been created; rules for enterprises and companies that are engaged in foreign trade in specific goods (labour, services) have been defined and a register of manufacturing and intermediary companies has been created; and the relevant administrative and criminal liabilities for export control offences have been established.

The lists of specific goods (labour, services) subject to export control measures have been made consistent with those of the Russian Federation on the basis of the 13 April 1999 agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation on unified export control procedures, as well as with those of the member States of the Eurasian Economic Community under the 28 October 2003 agreement on a unified export control system for States members of the Eurasian Economic Community.

These lists match the control lists of the multilateral export control regimes of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies and the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Following adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), the legal and regulatory export control framework in Belarus was updated on the basis of international requirements. In view of the importance of export control for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the Government Decision on the mechanism for practical implementation of the Act on Export Controls was raised to the level of a Presidential Decree.

Presidential Decree No. 460 of 17 July 2006 on State measures to regulate the import (export) of specific goods (labour, services) contains procedures governing control of the end use of exported goods and their re-export, including by means of pre- and post-licensing verifications. It also introduced the concepts of comprehensive monitoring and in-house export control for companies.

National export control legislation is regularly reviewed in Belarus to bring it into alignment with the recommendations of OSCE and other international organizations and non-proliferation and export control regimes, as well as to make it more consistent with the laws of the Russian Federation and the Eurasian Economic Community.

Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation are also now working actively to harmonize their export control legislation under the Customs Union in order to streamline trade procedures between and among member States and to establish effective, reliable barriers to illicit trafficking in the most sensitive materials, goods and technologies.

Building border capacity

Border capacity is being strengthened in light of economic changes, international border and customs regulatory practices and the unique geography of Belarus.

The short and medium-term working conditions of the customs agencies are influenced by a number of factors, including rapid developments in information and communications technologies, new shipping technologies, trade liberalization and increased threats of international terrorism and the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other materials that could be used to design weapons of mass destruction and/or their means of delivery.

Since the establishment by member States of the Custom Union of a single customs zone on 1 January 2010, the zone's western customs border is now essentially the sole obstacle to the smuggling of weapons, dual-use goods, nuclear materials, hazardous chemical and biological substances and other hazardous goods.

Under the Customs Code of the Customs Union, a primary objective of the customs agencies is to ensure, within their competency, compliance with prohibitions and restrictions, including with regard to specific goods that are moved across the customs border.

The current circumstances call for further construction and modernization of vehicle checkpoints, improved technical equipment at those checkpoints and border and customs cooperation with States that border the Republic of Belarus.

To identify potentially hazardous good, a system of risk analysis and management was instituted in Belarus in 2004. Since then, the concept of risk analysis as a primary customs control strategy has been established.

The World Customs Organization SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade has been actively implemented since 2009, including the use of technologies for non-intrusive inspection of goods and vehicles.

A computerized system for advance reporting was introduced on a pilot basis at all customs stations in 2009. The system provides a business-to-customs information interface.

The integrated programme for infrastructure development of border vehicle checkpoints for the period 2006-2010 was completed in 2010, with infrastructure that meets international requirements installed at the new facilities.

The programme of the State Customs Committee and the State Border Committee to create a joint integrated telecommunications network was a significant phase in this infrastructure development. It increased both the quality and speed of information exchanges among customs agencies at all levels, as well as among customs and border agencies.

Customs agencies' law enforcement activities are focused on intercepting smuggled goods and suppressing illicit trafficking across the customs border of narcotics, weapons, dual use goods, radioactive substances and other prohibited or restricted goods.

There is effective inter-agency cooperation with law enforcement and oversight bodies, including border service, internal affairs and State security agencies and financial intelligence units.

Biological field

Since the early 1990s, , in order to meet international obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, Belarus has adopted a number of laws and regulations that govern procedures for working with, and security, transfer, shipping and transport of microorganisms, biological agents and toxins that are dangerous for humans, animals and plants, including:

The Act on veterinary matters of 2 December 1994;

The Act on waste of 25 November 1993;

Council of Ministers Decision No. 1807 of 14 December 2001 on improving the State system for the sanitary regulation and registration of chemical and biological substances, materials and articles made from such substances, products for industrial and technical use, goods for personal use and foodstuffs;

Council of Ministers Decision No. 1481 of 24 October 2002 on the State pesticides programme for 2003-2006 and subsequent years.

Following the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), specific measures were taken in Belarus to enhance the effectiveness of physical protection, accounting and security of biological/bacteriological materials. Specifically, they include the following:

The Genetic Engineering Safety Act of 9 January 2006 and implementing regulations:

Council of Ministers Decision No. 1049 approving provisions on issuance procedures for import, export and transit licenses for opportunistic pathogenic and genetically engineered pathogenic organisms;

Ministry of Health Decision No. 65 of 25 August 2006 on some security matters related to genetic engineering, which contains the following instructions:

Instruction on safety requirements for closed systems during genetic engineering tasks with risk levels of 2, 3 and 4;

Instruction on procedures for certifying closed systems for genetic engineering tasks with risk levels of 2, 3 and 4.

Instruction on safety requirements during transport of opportunistic pathogenic and genetically engineered pathogenic organisms;

Instruction on accounting procedures for State entities regarding opportunistic pathogenic and genetically engineered pathogenic organisms created in, imported into, exported from or in transit through the Republic of Belarus;

Ministry of Health Decision No. 73 of 21 September 2006 on approval of types of licenses and applications for the import, export or transit of opportunistic pathogenic and genetically engineered pathogenic organisms.

Act on public sanitary and epidemiological well-being of 7 January 2012;

Council of Ministers Decision No. 1397 of 23 September 2008 on some questions related to procedures for transferring specific types of goods across the customs border of Belarus.

Annex 1 to Provisions on Ministry of Health issuance procedures and conditions for import and (or) export licences of opportunistic pathogenic and genetically engineered pathogenic organisms whose movement across the customs border of the Republic of Belarus is restricted owing to their non-commercial nature, approved by the relevant decision, regulates the monitoring and issuance by the Ministry of Health of licences for import and (or) export of opportunistic pathogens and genetically engineered pathogenic organisms whose movement across the customs border of the Republic of Belarus is restricted owing to their non-commercial nature.

Belarus regularly engages in national scientific and technical capacity-building to identify, diagnose and prevent infectious diseases and other biological threats.

A new laboratory facility for work with highly pathogenic agents, including especially hazardous ones, was built and became operational in 2008 at the National Epidemiology and Microbiology Research and Development Centre. The facility was constructed in compliance with international standards for good laboratory practices and good manufacturing practice.

The facility's laboratories are designed for maximum protection, with international biosafety levels of P3 and P4, and are equipped with all of the major technological and medical equipment necessary for state-of-the-art molecular biology and genetic engineering research.

The road map to enhance the national export control system and measures for accounting, security and control of materials that could be used to develop biological weapons

<i>Planned measures</i>	<i>Responsible State agencies</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
	<i>Export control</i>	
<i>Analysis and updating of national export control legislation to tailor it to contemporary international requirements and advanced national practices:</i>		
<p>1. An integrated review of the Act on Export Controls, to consider the inclusion of provisions on the following:</p> <p>Limitation of the powers in this area of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Council of Ministers, the inter-agency export control body and other State agencies; Procedures for allowing for the transit of specific goods through the territory of Belarus;</p> <p>Verification that specific goods are used for the stated purposes;</p> <p>International export control cooperation.</p>		Preparation of a new version of the Act on Export Controls.
<p>2. A review of Belarusian legislation to consider the following revisions:</p> <p>Refining the definition of</p>		Drafting and approval of a new version of Presidential Decree No. 460 of 17 July 2006 on State

<p>"intermediary activity"; Updating of issuance procedures for import and export licences for specific goods (labour, services); Enhancement of procedures to monitor compliance with obligations on the use of imported (exported) specific goods (labour, services) for the stated purposes.</p>		<p>measures to regulate the import (export) of specific goods (labour, services).</p>
<p>3. Re-examination and updating of the list of specific goods (labour, services), factoring in new technological developments and the efforts to review control lists under multilateral export control regimes.</p>		<p>Approval by the State Military and Industrial Committee and the State Customs Committee of updated lists of specific goods (labour, services).</p>
<p>4. Review of Belarusian legislation with regard to possible amendments related to the liability of persons and entities for export control offences.</p>		<p>Enhanced legal and regulatory framework for legal enforcement of export control.</p>
<p>5. Study of export control legislation of the Russian Federation, the United States and member States of the European Union, to draw on international experience in updating the national legal and regulatory framework in that area, including the establishment of a customs union.</p>		<p>Drafting of proposals to further enhance the national legal and regulatory framework for export control.</p>
<p><i>Establishment of a system to train export control professionals to work in the State agencies that comprise the national export control system</i></p>		
<p>6. Inclusion of courses on export</p>		<p>Improved awareness of export</p>

control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the curricula of the relevant specialized departments in Belarusian colleges and universities.		controls and non-proliferation, including on matters related to resolution 1540 (2004) among college and graduate students.
7. Organization of regular short special courses for professional staff of State export control agencies.		Improved qualifications and an expanded system to train State agency export control staff.
<i>Increasing the effectiveness of companies' in-house export control systems as an important factor in the early prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction</i>		
8. Incentives for effective in-house monitoring systems to be established in companies by legal persons in Belarus licensed to engage in foreign trade in specific goods (labour, services).		A strengthened national export control system.
9. Regular, short special courses for in-house export control professionals, featuring lectures by experts from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the 1540 Committee, the Security Council sanctions committees, the OSCE secretariat and other specialized international organizations.		Improved qualifications and an expanded system to train in-house export control staff.
10. Monitoring and assessment of compliance with national export control legislation by legal entities licensed to engage in foreign trade in specific goods (labour, services).		Prevention of possible violations of national export control legislation and international obligations by companies engaged in foreign trade in specific goods (labour, services).

Building border capacity		
11. Vehicle checkpoint development and maintenance.		Construction of vehicle checkpoint infrastructure that meets current international requirements and ensures effective customs, border and other State monitoring of persons, vehicles and goods, including specific goods, that are crossing the national border, in order to prevent the illegal entry of nuclear, chemical, biological and other materials that could be used to design weapons of mass destruction and/or their means of delivery.
12. Provision of inspection and search units and other customs monitoring resources.		Achievement of optimum indicators for time spent on customs control and increased effectiveness; identification and prevention of smuggling of explosives, weapons, dual-use goods and other items transported in violation of customs regulations.
13. Training of subject matter experts.		Increased capacity on the part of customs export control officials.
<i>Biological field</i>		
<i>Enhancing the legal and regulatory framework</i>		
14. Analysis of Belarusian legislation to determine the extent to which Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention obligations and the		Formulation of specific proposals to improve the relevant national legislation.

<p>recommendations of the Seventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention have been included.</p>		
<p>15. Updating and harmonization with current international requirements of the main laws and regulations designed to ensure sanitary and epidemiological well-being in Belarus.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modification and approval of the sanitary rules and standards contained in the procedures for accounting, security, transfer and transport of microorganisms in pathogenic hazard groups I-IV. 2. Modification and approval of the sanitary rules and standards for safe handling of microorganisms in pathogenic hazard groups I-II.
<p>16. Regulation of requirements for sanitary and disease control activities in Belarus and sanitary and quarantine monitoring at border checkpoints.</p>		<p>Revision of the Belarus sanitary protection rules approved under Decision No. 47 of 12 May 2003 of the General Commissioner for Food Safety, Disease Control and Prevention of Belarus.</p>
<p><i>National capacity-building and expansion of international cooperation to prevent the spread of hazardous biological materials and infectious diseases</i></p>		
<p>17. Continued national capacity-building to identify, diagnose and prevent infectious diseases and other biological threats.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued implementation of Memoranda of cooperation on disease control, including tropical diseases, concluded between the Federal Consumer Protection Service (Russian Federation) and the Ministry of Health of Belarus. 2. Provision of up-to-date molecular biology equipment

		<p>for dedicated research and development centres in Belarus.</p> <p>3. Training for capacity-building in the monitoring, identification, diagnosis and elimination of infectious diseases.</p>
18. Establishment of a national liaison office for implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.		More effective coordination among stakeholder ministries and agencies involved in Biological Weapons Convention implementation.
19. Continued implementation of joint scientific projects under the Innovative Biotechnologies Intergovernmental Special Programme of the Eurasian Economic Community by national epidemiology and microbiology research facilities and research centres in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan.		More effective coordination and regional cooperation in the fields of microbiology and biotechnology.
20. Establishment of a registry of institutions and experts to provide advisory and practical assistance in the area of infectious pathology to the member States of the Eurasian Economic Community.		Improved regional cooperation to prevent and control infectious diseases.
21. Possible establishment of an		Improved regional and international

international network of national disease control research and development centres and laboratories.		cooperation to prevent and control infectious diseases.
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International assistance (offered and requested)

Assistance provided by Belarus to other States: Belarus is willing to provide advisory assistance for setting up export control regulatory and legal frameworks under article 7 of resolution 1540 (2004).

Assistance provided to Belarus by international organizations and other States: a joint project with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to prevent the illicit movement of nuclear and radioactive materials; a joint project with the United States, Japan, Sweden and IAEA to set up a State nuclear materials accounting and control system; a joint project with the United States, Japan and Sweden to set up a nuclear materials physical protection system; and a joint project with Japan to update the system to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials along the border of Belarus.

Belarus is currently in need of support to equip border checkpoints with stationary radiation monitoring systems, inspection and search units and cutting-edge chemical monitoring devices and to equip the nation's specialized research and development centres with cutting-edge molecular biology equipment. Training for specialists is also needed.

International and regional cooperation

Belarus believes that non-proliferation and export control cooperation among international and regional organizations will promote more effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

As the most powerful regional organization in the Euro-Atlantic area, OSCE could make a substantial contribution to global efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004) by working closely with such organizations as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Customs Union, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Belarus is ready to do all it can to support the development and expansion of contacts between OSCE and those international organizations to support implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).