

Information Note¹

Event:

- 1540 Committee visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK) by invitation, and
- The 12th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, entitled “Non-Proliferation Regime in the 21st Century: Challenges and the Way Forward”.

Date and Venue:

- 14-15 November, 2013, Jeju, ROK (12th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues);
- 18-19, November 2013, Seoul, ROK (the 1540 Committee visit to ROK)

Organizer(s):

The Government of the Republic of Korea (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade); and for the 12th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation issues, in cooperation with UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD).

Participants:

Participants for Jeju Conference (See Annex B)

Participants for the visit:

- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE); Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC); Korea Customs Service (KCS); Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- 1540 Committee (Two Committee members and two experts)

1. Objectives

- Make presentations as requested at the Jeju Conference.
- Raise awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011) among relevant national/regional stakeholders.
- Facilitate identification of gaps and analyze the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at ROK’s national level to facilitate the finalization of the NAP.
- Encourage the ROK to provide effective practices on its implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- Discuss future steps, including the submission of additional information and a voluntary NAP.
- Continue the cooperation with the Government of the ROK and to assure further efforts in strengthening the implementation.

2. Background

¹ For information –not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

- Resolution 1977 (2011) encouraged the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation.
- Since the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee has conducted visits to the United States, Albania, Madagascar, Congo, Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada.
- In 2002, the first “Jeju-Process” conference was convened. Recognizing the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) and its critical role in preventing WMD proliferation to non-state actors, the organizers of the conference has invited the Chair of the 1540 Committee and/or its experts to participate in the previous conferences. This year, the two-day Jeju Conference devoted half of the discussions to resolution 1540 (2004) on strengthening its effective and full implementation.
- On 4 September 2013, H.E. Kim Sook, then Chair of the 1540 Committee and the Permanent representative of ROK to the United Nations, delivered an invitation from the ROK for a country visit by the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, as well as requesting the Committee members and the experts to participate in the Jeju Conference.
- This visit focused on discussions with relevant agencies and ministries to contribute to the voluntary ROK national implementation action plan (NAP). A site visit to Customs Agency’s Control Room followed after the meetings with relevant national authorities.

3. Highlights of the discussions

The Jeju Conference dedicated a day of sessions on discussions of resolution 1540 (2004). The discussion helped to identify the gaps in implementation, globally and regionally. All the presenters endorsed the significant role that resolution 1540 (2004) played in preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and related materials to non-State actors.

The visit to the Republic of Korea was successful in reaffirming the Government’s commitment to the full implementation of the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004) and to support the plans of the ROK to play a bigger role in assisting the Committee’s match-making role in assistance. The ROK Government envisages submitting its National Implementation Action Plan in 2014.

At the invitation of the Korea Advanced Institute for Science and Technology (KAIST) in Daejeon, 1540 Expert Terence Taylor gave a presentation to the student body on “The Role of the Scientific Community in Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Security”.

4. Additional comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.