

Information Note¹

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- Event:** Global Chemical Safety and Security Summit (CHEMSS)
- Organizers:** International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS) and Targi Kielce SA in cooperation with the Government of Poland
- Date and Venue:** 18 - 20 April 2016 (Global Chemical Safety and Security Summit), Kielce, Poland
22 April 2016 (Consultations with the OPCW), The Hague, Netherlands
- Participants:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America.
- UN entities, international/regional organizations:*
- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), 1540 Committee Group of Experts

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to take and enforce, inter alia, effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials and developing and maintaining appropriate effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport, as well as developing and maintaining appropriate effective physical protection measures.

The Summit programme encompassed a broad range of areas for enhancing safety and security in the peaceful uses of chemistry. The Summit addressed chemical safety and security solutions in the whole supply chain of raw materials, production, infrastructure, transportation and use of chemicals in all areas of chemical activity, with a focus on relevant industries. It brought together leaders and practitioners in all the various disciplines of chemical safety and security and from all stakeholder communities, inter alia, government, international organizations, industry, academia and civil society.

An invitation letter was sent to the Chair of the 1540 Committee, inviting him to address the Summit as well as members of the Committee and its Group of Experts to participate in the Summit discussions.

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

The Global Partnership's (GP) Chemical Security Sub-Working Group (CSSWG) held a meeting in the margins of the conference. The Group of Experts was invited to participate.

In accordance with the Work Plan for the Comprehensive Review, the 1540 Committee should analyse the experience of the 1540 Committee's collaboration with international and regional organisations since 2009 and based on the analysis, seek improved ways of enhancing the collaboration of the Committee with directly related international, regional and sub-regional organisations, and other UN bodies. Taking advantage of the presence of a 1540 Expert in Europe the Group of Experts arranged a bilateral meeting in the Hague with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to discuss outcomes and prospects of cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the OPCW in the context of the ongoing Comprehensive Review, as well as possible contributions the OPCW could make to the Comprehensive Review.

Highlights

The Global Chemical Safety and Security Summit gathered stakeholders from all sectors of chemical world: governmental agencies, the industry, academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and independent experts. Over 400 participants from 19 countries participated in this meeting. The summit demonstrated that chemical safety and security, including the development, production, infrastructure and full supply chain of chemicals are of increasing importance for governments, chemical industry, and the users of chemistry. The Summit acquainted governmental agencies, international organizations, representatives of industry, civil defence and first responders with the best practices, capacity building and programmes enhancing chemical safety and security.

On several occasions CHEMSS participants stressed the importance of resolution 1540 (2004) for the development of chemical safety and security as an important element of security at the national and international levels. At the session devoted to the resolution 1540 the 1540 Expert provided a presentation on the background, objectives, key aspects, obligations and state of implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004), as well as on the mandate of 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts. He also informed participants on ongoing Comprehensive Review of the resolution to be completed by the end of 2016.

The 1540 expert participated in a meeting of the Chemical Security Sub-Working Group (CSSWG) of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

Consultations with the OPCW

The 1540 Committee Expert conducted consultations with the representatives of several Divisions of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW on synergies, outcomes and prospects of cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the OPCW in the context of the ongoing Comprehensive Review, including in the provision of assistance requested by Member States.

Additional Comments

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