

Information Note¹

- Event:** Training for the OSCE 1540 National Points of Contact
- Organisers:** Hosted by the Government of Russian Federation in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and supported by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and Venue:** 4 -7 September 2018, Rostov-on-Don, Russian Federation
- Participants:** *National Participants:* Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation.
Instructors from International/regional organisations: Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU) via electronic message, INTERPOL, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), UN Security Council 1540 Group of Experts and UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Background

The Security Council has urged States to provide the Committee with their Points of Contact on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) (1540 PoC). From 7-11 September 2015, the Government of China in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and UNODA organized a first ever Training Course for national 1540 PoC in the Asia-Pacific Region.

To enhance cooperation and coordination among participating States on issues related to national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), an OSCE Directory of Points of Contact (PoC) on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) was established by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) (Decision No. 19/11 of 2011). The Directory has been shared with the 1540 Committee. Currently, 51 OSCE participating States have appointed an official PoC on the resolution 1540 (2004) to the OSCE. The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, together with the representatives from the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts and UNODA, held two meetings for PoCs in April 2014 in Vienna, Austria and in May 2015 in Belgrade, Serbia.

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.

In June-July 2016 a first training course for PoCs of OSCE States, hosted by the Russian Federation and supported by OSCE and UNODA was held in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation.

On 29 June 2018, Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Ambassador Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz, the Chair of the 1540 Committee and Ambassador Marcel Pesko, the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of OSCE co-signed an invitation letter inviting the OSCE participating States and international organisations to attend this second training course for POC's of the OSCE region.

Highlights

The course opened on 4 September with a welcome address from Mr. Sergey Ryabkov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, delivered by Mr. Grigory Mashkov, Head of Export Control Division, Department for Non-proliferation and Arms Control, MFA of the Russian Federation. On behalf of the Chair of the 1540 Committee, Ambassador Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz a welcome message was delivered by Counsellor Marcelo Zambrana Torrelío of the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations. Mr. Aaron Junhoung Yoo, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, delivered a message on behalf of Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. Ambassador Marcel Peško, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre also welcomed participants.

The instructional sessions were composed of four principal sections:

1. The key elements of resolution 1540 (2004) were discussed in the context of the risks of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). This section also included an overview of the non-proliferation regimes and UN global counter-terrorism instruments and how the UN Security Council operates with its subsidiary bodies (such as the 1540 Committee).
2. The second section in the course programme was instruction and discussion on the key operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 using nuclear, chemical and biological aspects as illustrative examples for the implementation of the obligations. In this element, along with presentations by the 1540 experts, maximum use was made of the experts from international organisations such as the BWC-ISU, INTERPOL, and the OPCW.
3. In the third participating government representatives were invited to give national presentations on their experiences gained to date in relation to the implementation of the resolution in their respective countries.
4. The fourth section was composed of interactive sessions that included a discussion in two breakout groups to test the learning of the participants through discussion on key elements of implementation and the role of Points of Contact in this process, as well as the need and nature of inter-agency engagement for effective implementation.

As part of the course, participants visited Platov Airport in Rostov-on-Don, Rostov Nuclear Power Plant and Atommash Multidisciplinary Engineering Company in Volgodonsk in the Rostov region. During these visits, participants had the opportunity to recognize the different controls that an airport should have in place in order to prevent illicit trafficking of WMD and related materials as well as they could identify key elements regarding nuclear plant security.

Additional Comments

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