

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

**Event:** Meeting of States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC MSP)

**Organizer:** Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU)

**Date and Venue:** 5-6 December 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

### Background

- On 22 October 2019, the Chairperson of the 2019 BWC MSP, Ambassador Yann Hwang, sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting a representative to take part in the Meeting.
- The 2019 BWC MSP considered the factual reports of the Meetings of Experts which took place in July and August 2019, as well as a report from the Chairperson on universalisation activities and the annual report of the Implementation Support Unit. Ambassador Hwang also observed that the 1540 Committee is currently engaged in a number of activities relevant to the work of the BWC.

### Overview

The 1540 Expert participated in the last two days of the BWC MSP, 5-6 December 2019.

#### Day 1 (5 December):

The States Parties continued with Agenda item 6(c), which had started the day before, on the outcomes of the third Meeting of Experts on strengthening national implementation. Statements were read by delegates from Argentina, China, Cuba, India, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. Kenya also intervened during this agenda item to highlight their development of a strategic trade management act, which covers chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, as well as the related export and trans-shipment control provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). They also discussed their biosecurity bill.

Further to the first objective of this mission, the 1540 Expert gave a statement in which he noted that the Committee is now preparing for the next Comprehensive Review before the renewal of its mandate in 2021. He also described how the 1540 Committee is continuing to work with UN Member States, guided by the Security Council's recommendations and subsequent Programmes

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

of Work, with a number of available tools including national reports, voluntary National Implementation Action Plans, assistance matchmaking and Points of Contact training.

The remainder of the day focused on reviewing the reports from the Meetings of Experts on assistance, response and preparedness and institutional strengthening of the Convention. The States Parties considered preparations for the Ninth Review Conference, which is scheduled to take place in 2021, and annual reports on universality and the BWC ISU. The States Parties also discussed budgetary and finance matters related to the intersessional process. Regarding universality, in particular, the BWC ISU's report noted that, since the previous BWC MSP, the United Republic of Tanzania had ratified the Convention on 14 August 2019, thus becoming the 183rd State Party. There are now four signatory States and ten non-signatory States.

Day 2 (6 December):

The States Parties spent the last day of the BWC MSP reviewing the report of the Meeting, which was adopted by the end of the day.

**Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)