

Information Note¹

- Event:** Legal Frameworks Workshop for implementing strong legal structures to meet international obligations in the broader CBRN context with focus on the nuclear security.
- Organizers:** Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Government of Slovakia, with the support of the Canadian government.
- Date and Venue:** 24- 26 January 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Participants:** *States:* Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, India, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United States
- International, regional and subregional organizations:* International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 1540 Committee Group of Experts
- Civil society:* Netherlands Forensic Institute, National University of Singapore (Centre of International Law)

Background

The preamble of resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that “most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties, or have made other commitments aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and have taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials, such as those required by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)”.

Resolution 1977 (2011) urges the 1540 Committee to continue to engage actively with States and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations to promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004).

At the invitation of the Global initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) to the Chair of the Committee, a representative of the 1540 Group of Experts participated in the workshop on legal frameworks for implementing strong legal structures to meet international obligations in the broader CBRN context in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 24 - 26 January 2017. The workshop was aimed at officials from GICNT partner countries involved in implementing obligations under

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international treaties in the nuclear security field and in particular involved in the implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM/A) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

Highlights

The three-day workshop included presentations, scenario-based dialogue and panel discussions. The workshop highlighted the obligations under international legal instruments for nuclear and radiological security and practical models for implementing obligations. In particular, it focused on criminalization penalties under the CPPNM, CPPNM/A and ICSANT. The workshop also promoted the exchange of different implementing models with regard to these conventions as best practices for other States. Presenters briefed the participants on the overall international architecture against terrorism, underscoring the major responsibility of States to implement the relevant international instruments, including by criminalising specific actions. Information on the different counter-terrorism instruments, in the context of the UN Global Strategy against terrorism and the role of the different UN entities in this area was presented. An overview of resolution 1540 and its obligations, focusing on assistance and dialogue mechanisms including preparation of 1540 Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans was given, too.

The workshop, by using fictional scenarios, featured three separate cases that utilised realistic nuclear security settings that promoted a practical and interactive discussion in break-out groups, too. The scenario-based discussions helped especially to demonstrate how the complementary provisions of CPPNM, CPPNM/A and ICSANT together address important aspects of the international nuclear security architecture. Participants were informed of the value of implementing obligations under the CPPNM, CPPNM/A and ICSANT, and, in particular, how strong legal criminalisation provisions can serve to deter, investigate, and successfully prosecute and adjudicate illicit acts.

The event provided an opportunity to give participants information on all 1540 obligations and bring them into context with the themes of the CPPNM, CPPNM/Amendment and ICSANT Conventions. The fact that the content of 1540 resolution is broader and related to all weapons types was presented and it was stressed that only by implementing all obligations of 1540 the security environment of a State would be strengthened effectively.

1. Additional Comments

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