

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

<b>Event:</b>	International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material: The Way Forward for Prevention and Detection
<b>Organizer:</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
<b>Date and venue:</b>	3-7 December 2018, Vienna, Austria
<b>Participants:</b>	More than 700 participants, including representatives from around 100 countries and 15 organisations

### **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. Further, in its operative paragraph 12, resolution 2325 (2016) decides that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote full implementation of the resolution and particularly notes the need for more attention, among others, on accounting for and securing related materials.

Operative paragraph 29 of resolution 2325 (2016) “requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional, and, as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation”.

The aim of the IAEA International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material, among others, was to provide a platform to:

- Exchange information related to the use of a threat-based, risk-informed approach for the protection of radioactive material in use, transport and storage and for the establishment of nuclear security systems and measures for the detection of this material when out of regulatory control;
- Share experiences in the development of regulatory frameworks, requirements for radioactive material and associated facilities, and nuclear security systems and measures for detection of this material when out of regulatory control;

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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.

- Exchange information and experiences regarding the planning, establishment, maintenance and sustaining of nuclear security measures and systems;
- Exchange information and experiences regarding interfaces between competent authorities when radioactive material is lost, stolen, or involved in illicit trafficking;
- Exchange information on methodologies and techniques to assess the effectiveness of nuclear security measures and systems;
- Review technological developments in nuclear security;
- Review the current status of nuclear security efforts and existing approaches, emerging trends and areas that may still need to be addressed;
- Raise awareness of nuclear security amongst all competent authorities and other stakeholders and identify how each can contribute to the sustainability of national nuclear security regimes;
- Facilitate cooperation among all competent authorities and other stakeholders at the national or international levels, as applicable; and
- Promote international nuclear security guidance and its use by States.

In a letter dated 12 November 2018, the Chair of the 1540 Committee was invited to participate as speaker during the Conference. Since the Chair was unable to attend due to other commitments, a 1540 Committee Expert was nominated to participate.

### **Highlights**

From 3 to 7 December 2018, more than 700 participants from around 100 countries and 15 organizations participated in the Conference. The main themes covered during the Conference included: securing radioactive material from cradle to grave; detecting radioactive material involved in criminal/unauthorized acts; strengthening domestic interfaces and leveraging existing capabilities for keeping material under control and for detecting such material when out of regulatory control; facilitating international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure the security of radioactive material; and strengthening sustainability and effectiveness of nuclear security regimes related to the security of radioactive material and nuclear security detection architecture.

The Conference provided a valuable opportunity to reiterate to various stakeholders in the field of nuclear security the relevant obligations of all States under resolution 1540 (2004) and to highlight the role of the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts in monitoring and supporting national implementation, including its facilitation role in matching assistance requests with offers of assistance.

### **Additional Comments**

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