

Information Note¹

- Event:** 19th Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting
- Organizers:** IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
- Date and Venue:** 19-20 October 2020, Virtually via Cisco WebEx
- Participants:** Representatives from the IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), EUROPOL, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), Global Partnership, INTERPOL, UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and a 1540 Committee Expert

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to implement, inter alia, effective domestic controls to prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, and also effective measures to account for and secure such items. OP 12 of resolution 2325 (2016) notes the need for more attention by the Committee on, inter alia, accounting for and securing related materials.

OP 7 of resolution 1540 (2004) invites States to offer assistance to other States in response to specific requests for assistance in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). OP 5 of resolution 1810 (2008) encourages States that have requests for assistance to convey them to the Committee, and also urges States and international, regional and subregional organizations to inform the Committee of areas in which they can provide assistance. OP 11 (c) of that resolution urges strengthening the Committee's role in facilitating technical assistance, including by matching offers and requests for assistance.

¹ 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.

OP 10 of resolution 1977 (2011) urges the 1540 Committee to continue to engage actively with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations drawing inter alia on examples of successful assistance, and to liaise on the availability of programmes to facilitate implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). OP 14 of that resolution further urges relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to inform the Committee as appropriate of areas in which they can provide assistance.

OP 17 of resolution 1977 (2010) encourages participation by the Committee in meetings on assistance between the Committee and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. OP 18 of that resolution encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information sharing with the Committee on technical assistance. OP 19 of resolution 2325 (2016) urges relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to inform the 1540 Committee of areas in which they can provide assistance, and calls upon organizations to provide the Committee with information on their 1540 assistance programmes.

OP 23 of resolution 2325 (2016) encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the Committee on 1540 implementation issues.

By means of a letter dated 17 September 2020, the IAEA's Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, invited the Chair of the 1540 Committee to nominate a representative to attend the 19th Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting (IAEA) on 19 and 20 October 2020. The purpose of the Meeting was to provide for a systematic and active exchange of information on planned events and activities, to identify areas of cooperation with a view to ensuring effective use of resources and to avoid duplication and overlap, and to further strengthen cooperation.

Highlights

The 19th Nuclear Security Information Exchange Meeting (IEM) was opened by Mr Raja Adnan, Director of the Division of Nuclear Security (NSNS), who emphasized the importance of IEMs to share information about planned activities and to assist coordination amongst relevant organizations and initiatives so as to avoid duplication and overlap. He expressed the hope that IEMs would continue

to identify areas where participating organizations and initiatives could work more closely together and increase coordination and engagement.

The IAEA highlighted some important nuclear security activities, including the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) 2020, held in Vienna from 10 to 14 February and which was also addressed by the Chair of the 1540 Committee by video message, preparations for the 2021 Conference to review the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the outcome of the 64th IAEA General Conference held in Vienna from 21 to 25 September 2020. The IAEA also provided an update on the Common Calendar and the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) platform.

Participating organisations and initiatives provided updates on their support programmes to States in areas relating to nuclear security. The 1540 Expert updated the IEM on the Committee's activities to promote the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the matrix review process, assistance requests, voluntary national implementation action plans, outreach events, coordination with international and regional organisations (IROs), as well as the Comprehensive Review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). It was noted that a number of scheduled 1540-related events, including those related to the Comprehensive Review, had to be postponed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The IEM provides a useful platform to share information on the nuclear security related activities and priorities of participating organisations and initiatives, including those relevant to the mandate of the 1540 Committee. It also presents an opportunity to strengthen coordination between the respective assistance providers to reduce duplication and to ensure that effective support is provided to States requesting assistance.

Additional Comments

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