

Information Note¹

Event: Sub-Thematic Discussion Group focused on resolution 1540 (2004)

Organizers: UN Global CT Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection (ETCIP WG)

Date and Venue: 24 November 2020, virtual meeting

Participants: Members of the ETCIP WG

Background

In preambular paragraphs to resolution 1540 (2004) the Security Council expressed grave concern at the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. The Security Council recognised the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security.

Under OP 11 (e) of resolution 1540 (2004) the Security Council requested the 1540 Committee to provide opportunities for interaction with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

In a preambular paragraph of resolution 1977 (2011) the Security Council recognized the need to enhance coordination of efforts at national, regional, subregional and international levels, as appropriate, in order to strengthen a global response to the serious challenge and threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

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.

Under OP 3 of resolution 1977 (2011) the Security Council decided that the 1540 Committee would conduct a comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) prior to the renewal of its mandate. This expires on 25 April 2021.

By means of a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee from the Special Representative of INTERPOL to the United Nations, the INTERPOL Chair of the ETCIP WG requested the participation of the 1540 Group of Experts in a virtual Sub-Thematic Discussion Group on resolution 1540 (2004) on 24 November 2020.

Highlights

The meeting was opened by Mr Christopher King, Deputy Chief of ODA's Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch. He noted that Resolution 1540 (2004) was a vital component of the global non-proliferation architecture to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction and that the Sub-thematic discussion was directly linked to Task 10 of the ETCIP Working Group's programme of work: "Exchange information on capacity-building support provided by WG entities which bears relevance to 1540 (2004)." The mandate of the 1540 Committee would expire in April 2021 and the Committee was currently conducting a Comprehensive Review of the Status of Implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004). The sub-thematic discussion was an opportunity for participants to provide inputs for the Committee's consideration on their experience, challenges and lessons learned and recommendations to improve efforts to strengthen global security against WMD threats from non-state actors, including terrorist groups. The discussion was intended to raise awareness of relevant organizations represented in the Working Group about resolution 1540 (2004), share information about their work's relevance to the resolution, and discuss ways to improve coordination and further engage with each other and the Committee to support Member States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The 1540 Expert summarized the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), including those for cooperation and collaboration between international, regional and subregional organisations and the 1540 Committee. He noted that the resolution was focused on countering WMD proliferation by non-State actors but that the requirements extended to terrorists where appropriate. Due to the coronavirus pandemic the 2021 Comprehensive Review referred to by the Chair of this meeting had been postponed. The Committee would announce a new

timetable when this was decided, but in the meantime the Committee would welcome written submissions from international, regional and subregional organisations.

Six participants then described the work of their organisations in support of the work of the 1540 Committee and, where relevant, their submissions to the Comprehensive Review to date.

This meeting was a valuable opportunity for members of the ETCIP WG to be briefed on the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and the current status of the 2021 Comprehensive Review, and on cooperation and collaboration between international, regional and subregional organisations and the 1540 Committee.

Additional Comments

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