

Information Note¹

Event: UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Regional Industry Outreach Conference (Mexico-Wiesbaden Conference) for the Pacific Alliance States and Brazil.

Organizers: Government of Mexico with support from Germany and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Date: 8-9 June 2017, Mexico City, Mexico

Participants: List attached

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) acknowledges that industry is an important stakeholder and partner to governments in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, as it has to abide by the laws which have been adopted by Member States. An effective partnership between States and industry is vital for successful non-proliferation efforts. The role of industry in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is referred to in operative paragraph 8 of resolution 1540 (2004) and operative paragraph 12 of resolution 1977 (2011) which, respectively, call upon all States to develop appropriate ways to cooperate, work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under the laws relating to the resolution.

The “Wiesbaden Conferences” focus on engagement with the private sector and industry in the specific context of resolution 1540 (2004). The “Wiesbaden Conferences” are a model and an integral part of outreach activities supported by the 1540 Committee where UN Member States and appropriate industry sectors with participation of relevant international, regional and non-governmental organisations, join in a dialogue on how to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The first regional industry conference was hosted by the Republic of Korea in September 2016 for the Asia and Pacific region. It built on the achievements of previous international “Wiesbaden Conferences” conducted in Germany since 2012. The event hosted by Mexico for the Pacific Alliance States (Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru) and Brazil was the second regional industry event.

Highlights

The Wiesbaden Conference in Mexico City facilitated a dialogue between the 1540 Committee, participating Member States and industry and raised awareness of the importance of information-sharing on 1540 related activities between government and industry. It helped to identify and share effective practices for compliance strategies within companies. There was a total of 31 participants. The regional representatives came from both industry and government. The participants also included compliance experts who had participated in previous Wiesbaden conferences (from Europe and the USA). The one and half day conference was characterized by lively and interesting discussions in the context of the “Wiesbaden” concept.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

The conference opened with a general introduction on resolution 1540 (2004) and then concentrated on taking stock of the previous Wiesbaden Conferences and how to apply the lessons learned in the Pacific Alliance States and Brazil. Industry representatives who participated in previous Wiesbaden Conferences focused their presentations on outcomes of the previous conferences and shared their experiences. They underlined the importance of a good interaction between regulators, including customs and industry in the field of export controls in order to ensure compliance with export laws and controls. Following this, keynote presentations were given by representatives from Mexico, Germany and Korea.

These sessions were followed by government speakers who updated participants on existing or planned laws in the area of strategic trade controls. The last session concentrated on the role of industry in preventing proliferation in the context of resolution 1540 (2000).

The discussion reflected, as did discussions in previous Wiesbaden Conferences, that there are conflicting interests between the regulators, who seek to maintain high levels of security and industry, which seeks consistent rules under which to operate. The mutual benefit of a strong partnership between government and industry for resolution 1540 (2004) implementation was stressed.

The Mexico Wiesbaden Conference set a foundation for a regional dialogue between exporters and regulators on export controls. The conference facilitated information exchange between governments and industry. It promoted a better understanding of export control regulations and their application by industry through presentations by both regulators and regional industry representatives.

There was a discussion of the possibility of the continuation of the “Wiesbaden process” in the region.

Additional Comments

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