

Information Note¹

Events: Kuwait National Workshop on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

Organizers: Government of the State of Kuwait

Date and Venue: 12-13 June 2019, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Participants: Representatives from Ministries and Departments, including Foreign Affairs, Interior, Police, Environment, Commerce and Industry, Defence, Health, Customs, Legal Affairs, Justice, National Guard, Fire Brigades, Central Bank including the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Ports Authority.

Background

- Resolution 1540 (2004) and its successor resolutions emphasize the importance of assisting States with their implementation of the obligations contained in the resolution;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) requires States to intensify their efforts to achieve full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and requires the 1540 Committee to explore and develop an approach, with regards to implementation and reporting, that takes into account the specificity of States;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) encourages all States that have submitted reports on their implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) to provide, when appropriate or upon the request of the 1540 Committee, additional information on their

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee nor the organisers or participants in the event.

implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including, voluntarily, on their laws and regulations and on States' effective practices.

Highlights and Discussions

The Workshop was opened by Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation, Ambassador Nasser Al-Sabeeh who noted that resolution 1540 (2004), as a Chapter VII resolution, imposed binding obligations on UN Member States. The State of Kuwait submitted a National Report to the Committee in 2005, and a second and more comprehensive report was now needed. The Workshop had been convened in order to work with UN Experts to consider issues to be addressed in a second report, including legislation, and how to build capacity and knowledge to fill existing gaps. He stated that Kuwait's commitment to implement the resolution reflected its international profile and responsibilities.

The Workshop was chaired initially by Ambassador Nasser Al-Sabeeh and then by the senior Kuwait 1540 point of contact. 1540 Committee Experts made detailed presentations on requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), the role of the 1540 Committee, and the tools available to the Committee to promote full implementation of the resolution. On request, they also made a presentation on proliferation financing. The Workshop Chair (the 1540 point of contact) initiated a substantial discussion amongst participants of the role of their ministries and departments in implementation of the resolution and on relevant legislation or regulations.

In order to assist identification of topics that could be included in a second report to the 1540 Committee, the 1540 Experts conducted a short analysis of Kuwait's matrix. They noted themes included on other state's national reports and noted some possibly relevant examples of such reports available on the 1540 website.

The discussions focused on the goals and objectives of the Workshop, on the roles of the participants in implementation of the resolution, of the importance of control lists and the sources of technical expertise amongst Kuwait authorities, and on the 1540 assistance process. Several participants highlighted the benefits of addressing 1540 issues on a regional basis.

In closing, the Chair summarised the Workshop as a clear indicator of Kuwait's commitment to full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The number and range of departments present demonstrated the high degree of coordination and collaboration within government. Much legislation had been enacted since the 2005 report and work would begin on preparation of a second report. The authorities looked forward to continuing support from the Committee and its Group of Experts, including possible future workshops, perhaps at a regional level and perhaps focused on specific areas of the resolution.

Additional Comments

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