

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

- Event:** Webinar Series to Strengthen the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in South Asia and Mongolia
- Organizers:** United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and Pacific with financial support from the Government of the United States
- Date and Venue:** 1, 8 and 15 December 2020, via Webex Platform

### Background

- In resolution 2325 (2016), the Security Council re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully and effectively Resolution 1540 (2004) and calls upon all States to intensify their efforts to achieve full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), focusing, when and where appropriate, on areas where measures should be taken and strengthened. Resolution 2325 also decides that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) and requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, subregional and, as appropriate, national level.
- On 6 October 2020, Mr Yuriy Kryvonos, Director of the UNRCPD, sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee, informing him that the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs through its regional centre, UNRCPD, would convene a sub-regional webinar to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States of South Asia and Mongolia on 1st, 8th and 15th December 2020. In the letter, Mr Kryvonos invited the Chair to appoint members of the Committee's Group of Experts to take part in the webinar.

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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.

## **Highlights and Overview:**

The sessions took place over three days, and each session was accompanied by the online education module which the participants were required to complete prior to the Webinar session.

The series of webinars was opened by Dr Yuri Kryvonos, Director of UNRCPD. In his remarks, he noted that resolution 1540 (2004) has become an important component of the global security architecture. It was vital to ensuring that present and future generations were protected from the ultimate threat posed by the nexus of WMDs and terrorism. The increase threat of terrorism underscored the importance of the implementation of resolution 1540. The governments of South Asia countries and Mongolia were important strong supporters and advocates of national and regional implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The active participation of relevant governments in regional and international events related to the resolution was a testimony to their support.

HE Ambassador (ret.) Margaret Uyehara, EXBS Advisor to Bangladesh, India, and Nepal of the US Department of State also delivered a statement in the opening session. She introduced the work of the EXBS as focusing on three main areas: strategic trade control management, customs enforcement, and border security operations. These were the foundations of efforts for preventing the illicit transfer of WMDs, conventional arms, and dual-use items. Resolution 1540 (2004) was a foundational agreement which formed EXBS's programming and partnership with other countries.

Following the Opening session, the first day was dedicated to the introduction and overview of resolution 1540 (2004) and WMD non-proliferation. An Expert gave a presentation on the general provisions and requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), the 1540 Committee's work and national implementation tools.

The second day was focusing on Implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in national systems and synergies with other initiatives and regimes. An Expert made a presentation on the Comprehensive Review. She introduced the mandate to carry out comprehensive reviews, the working method of the 2016 Comprehensive Review, the main findings of the report, the implementation status in Asia and Pacific region. She also discussed briefly the upcoming 2021 Comprehensive Review, particularly the work the GoE had conducted in updating the matrices.

The last half of the second day was dedicated to national presentations. The participating States introduced their commitment and efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation, resolution 1540 (2004) implementation, experiences and challenges.

The final day was on the international partnership to implement resolution 1540 (2004). Following to the introduction by the US, Sri Lanka, INTERPOL and WCO, an Expert introduced the 1540 Committee's assistance match-making mechanism, with a particular focus on the assistance request template.

### **Additional Comments**

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