

Information Note¹

Event: Technical Workshop on Sharing of Best Practices in the Development of a Legislative and Regulatory Framework on Chemical Security

Organizer: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Date and Venue: 24-25 July 2019, The Hague, the Netherlands

Participants: National representatives; international and regional organisations; industry; academia

Background

On 22 May 2019, the Acting Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting the Committee to take part in a Technical Workshop on Sharing of Best Practices in the Development of a Legislative and Regulatory Framework on Chemical Security.

The objective of the meeting was to further enhance the understanding of participants on existing legal and regulatory frameworks on chemical security. The Workshop also aimed to raise awareness on the core elements and thematic issues covered by different national regimes, including the respective roles of regulators and other relevant stakeholders.

Highlights

After opening remarks by the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW and a tour de table of participants in the two-day technical workshop, the participants heard a number of presentations during the first panel on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the international legal framework on chemical security. In the first presentation, the 1540 Committee Expert gave a brief overview of the background to and content of resolution 1540 (2004). He then expanded on the obligation of States, under Operative Paragraph (OP) 3(a)-(b), to develop and maintain measures to account for and secure chemical weapons-related materials in production, use, storage and transport, as well as physical protection measures. He then drew attention to statistics specific to chemical weapons-related materials for OP 3(a)-(b), as well as to conclusions of the 2016 Comprehensive Review in this area and related recommendations by the Security Council in resolution 2325 (2016).

The next three speakers on panel 1 – from UNEP, OPCW and National Research Council of Italy – focused on the sound management of chemicals and waste, CWC implementing legislation and chemical security and EU legislation and regulations related to chemical security.

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 next four speakers on panel 2 – from the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), UK Chemical Business Association (CBA), Indonesia Ministry of Industry and Federation of the Indonesian Chemical Industry (FIKI) – spoke on engagement with the chemical industry.

The next four speakers on panel 3 – from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), UK Chemical Business Association (CBA), South Africa Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) – presented on approaches to risk assessment and gap analysis of the existing regulatory framework.

The next three speakers on panel 4 – from UNEP, the Permanent Representation of Australia to the OPCW and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory – presented on methodologies for the development of legal tools.

The final presentations were given by a number of national participants from Algeria, Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam.

During the breakout sessions, three groups discussed different scenarios which required the participants to think through how measures for chemical security could address threats posed to chemical production facilities, transport and logistics, handling, storage and inventory management, end-use and waste management.

Additional Comments

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