

Information Note¹

Event: Regional Meeting for National Authorities in Asia
Organizers: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Government of the United Arab Emirates
Date and Venue: 16 to 18 May 2017, Dubai, the United Arab Emirates
Participants: *OPCW Member States in Asia:* Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cook Islands², Cyprus, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Yemen.
International/regional organizations: International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)/European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), Advisory Board on Education and Outreach of OPCW (ABEO), and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee Expert.

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) calls on all States (in operative paragraph 8) “to promote ... full implementation and, where necessary, strengthening of multi-lateral treaties to which they are parties, whose main objective is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear biological or chemical weapons”. Further, the resolution calls upon States to renew and fulfil their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons... as an important means of achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation...”.

On 29 March 2017, a letter from the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, was sent to the 1540 Chair, inviting a representative of the Group of Experts to participate in a panel discussion and make presentation on achievements, needs and challenges related to terrorism and non-state actors at the regional meetings being co-organized by OPCW with State Parties. The meeting was part of a series of events to commemorate the important occasion of the 20th anniversary of the entry-into-force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). As stated in the invitation, participation by a 1540 Expert would “further enhance the longstanding cooperation between the Committee and the OPCW” and is in line with operative paragraph 23 of resolution 2325 (2016) in which the Security Council “Encourages relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)”.

Highlights

This regional meeting of National Authorities served as a forum in which the CWC States Parties in the region presented their needs for assistance in relation to Article VII of CWC and indicated what assistance they can offer to other States Parties. In addition, it helped the OPCW Secretariat to determine how it could enhance the assistance it offers to States Parties in the region.

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.

² Cook Islands is not a Member State of the United Nations.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the 1540 Expert to highlight resolution 1540 (2004) to the national authorities of CWC in Asia and to re-emphasize the importance for all States to implement fully and effectively resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent WMD proliferation, especially to prevent the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors. The meeting also enhanced the Committee's cooperation with the OPCW on the implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004).

Additional Comments

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