

Information Note¹

- Event:** Sub-Regional Stakeholders Forum on Advancing CWC National Implementation and Regional Cooperation in Southeast Asia
- Organizer:** Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Government of Thailand
- Date and Venue:** 24–26 April 2018, Bangkok, Thailand
- Participants:** *Governments:* Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Republic of Korea, Japan.
- International Organisations & Non-Governmental Organisations:* International Council of Chemical Associations, 1540 Committee expert, Pacific Forum for Center for Strategic and International Studies, OPCW.

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) calls on all States (in operative paragraph 8) “to promote ... full implementation and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral 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 20 February, 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 the forum and make presentation on the relevance of the resolution 1540 to the CWC. As stated in the invitation, “cooperation rendered by the Committee Established Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) has been highly appreciated” in the work of the OPCW to assist States Parties’ efforts to promote the full and effective implementation of the CWC. Participating in the sub-regional forum for the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN) is also in line with operative paragraph 23 of resolution 2325 (2016) in which the Security Council “Encourages relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)”.

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.

Highlights

This sub-regional forum 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.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the 1540 Expert to highlight resolution 1540 (2004) to the national authorities of CWC in Southeast 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.