

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

**Event:** Global Planning Seminar- Operation Cosmo 2.

**Organizer:** World Customs Organization (WCO).

**Date and Venue:** 9-11 January 2018, Brussels, Belgium.

**Participants:** 96 WCO Member States and Regional Intelligence Liaison Officers (RILOs).

Argonne National Laboratory, EU Joint Research Centre (JRC), Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and 1540 Committee Group of Experts.

### **1. Background**

Operative paragraphs 3 c) and d) of resolution 1540 (2004) decided that all States: "...shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials and to this end ... shall develop and maintain appropriate and effective border controls ... and develop and maintain effective national export and transshipment controls..." . Implementation of these obligations require Member States to develop and maintain the appropriate legislative and regulatory framework. The WCO Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Programme (STCE Programme) is designed to support States in their efforts of implementing effective export and border controls and corresponding enforcement measures, which are essential obligations under resolution 1540 (2004). So far, the STCE Programme has developed a group of accredited WCO expert trainers that deliver national STCE workshops based on the STCE training curriculum. WCO experts have also supported numerous 1540 conferences and workshops as well as 1540 POC training courses with their expertise.

On 6 October 2017, an invitation letter was sent to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting experts from the 1540 Committee to participate in the workshop to give a keynote presentation on resolution 1540 (2004) and to make a presentation highlighting the international legal framework for export and border controls from the viewpoint of resolution 1540 (2004) and to connect to the

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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 organisers or participants in the event.

work of the WCO in this regard. The workshop's objective was aimed at reviewing the progress made by the Customs community in establishing capacity to address the proliferation of Weapons of Mass destruction (WMD) and related items since the WCO's first Operation Cosmo in 2014, and plan further Customs operational activities to counter illicit trafficking in WMD.

## **2. Highlights**

From 9 to 11 January 2018 the WCO organized a three-day conference called "Operation Cosmo 2 Global Operational planning seminar", held at WCO Headquarters in Brussels. The conference was designed to have general discussions on key elements of strategic trade border controls in non-proliferation. The workshop was structured primarily with sessions composed of presentations with time for questions and answers. The speakers highlighted the crucial role played by Customs in ensuring safe and secure movements of goods and decreasing proliferation risks posed by strategic goods and technologies. The 1540 experts highlighted Customs' obligations under UN Security Resolution 1540 and the valuable cooperation with and work of the WCO in this area.

120 participants representing 96 WCO Member States attended the conference next to expert speakers from international, subregional and regional as well as non-governmental organisations.

## **3. Additional Comments**

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