

Information Note¹

- Event:** Seminar on Effective Practices of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): Information Exchange and Lessons Learned, and bilateral consultations with RACVIAC on future cooperation.
- Organizer:** Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) with the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).
- Date and Venue:** 13- 15 September 2017, Rakitje, Croatia
- Participants:** *RACVIAC Members, Associate Members and Observers: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo², Montenegro, Turkey, and USA.*
- UN entities, international/regional organisations, and other non-governmental organizations: UNODA, 1540 Committee Experts. Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (the latter was invited but could not attend).*

1. Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to take and enforce, *inter alia*, 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. Resolutions 1977 (2011) and 2325 (2016) encourage all States to prepare on a voluntary basis National Implementation Action Plans (1540 NAP), with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of Resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit these plans to the Committee.

The 1540 Committee through its Group of Experts has been working to support countries in the South-Eastern European region with their implementation of the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) and in the development of 1540 NAP, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Republic of Serbia. These efforts culminated in the submission of NAP by these countries. In October 2015 the 1540

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 This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. (In accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation).

Experts also visited Moldova to carry out a mission together with the OSCE with a view to developing a NAP.

On 19 July 2017, an invitation letter was sent to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting Experts from the 1540 Committee to participate in the workshop “Effective Practices of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): Information Exchange and Lessons Learned” organized by RACVIAC. The workshop’s objective was to promote discussion on the state of play of the existing NAP in the region and share national experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of goals set in NAP. Invitations to the workshop in RACVIAC were extended to technical experts and officials from Member States, directly engaged with the implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004), as well as representatives of relevant international and regional organisations.

2. Overview

On 14 and 15 September, RACVIAC’s Centre for Security Cooperation, with the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) organised an expert workshop on 1540 NAPs in Rakitje, Croatia, to have general discussion on key elements of a voluntary NAP, to inform participants about the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and to highlight key elements of the resolution 2325 (2016), as well as to inform participants on assistance mechanisms related to resolution 1540 (2004). Participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Turkey, and USA attended the event.

The workshop was held against the background of the substantial engagement of countries in the South-Eastern European region in drafting 1540 NAP. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia were among the first to develop a 1540 NAP and to submitted them to the 1540 Committee. The workshop was especially aimed at following up on these efforts and at providing practical insights for other countries in the region.

Participating States gave an outline of the instruments that facilitate their implementation of 1540 obligations, and highlighted various laws and regulations, their adherence to many non-proliferation instruments, as well as bilateral and regional cooperation.

Additional Comments

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