

Information Note¹

- Event:** National workshop on “Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction”
- Organizer(s):** Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) and the Government of Sri Lanka
- Date and Venue:** 22-23 June 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Participants:** *Government of Sri Lanka:*
34 participants from 14 ministries and agencies of Sri Lanka:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Ministry of Defence
Sri Lanka Air Force
Department of Import and Export Control
Financial Intelligence Unit (CBSL)
Bank Supervision Department (CBSL)
State Intelligence Service (MoD)
Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Criminal Investigation Department (Mini. of Law & Oder)
Terrorist Investigation Department (Mini. of Law & Oder)
Sri Lanka Customs
Department of Legal Draftsman
Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council
Attorney General's Department
- Others:*
Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka
1540 Committee Group of Experts
1267 Committee Monitoring Team
Western Union Financial Services
Individual experts from King’s College (London) and Australia

Background

Resolution 1540 (2004) decides that all States shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor to finance the activities related to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. The resolution also decides that all States shall establish appropriate effective national controls on providing funds and services related to export of weapons of mass destruction (WMD related materials, including financial services. Resolution 2325 (2016), in its operative paragraph 12, notes the need for more attention on proliferation finance measures.

On 29 May 2017, a letter from the Chief a.i. of UNODC/TPB was addressed to the Chair, inviting the Group of Experts to participate in the national workshop on 22-23 June 2017 to present on relevant obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and participate in discussions to

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.

help to identify areas where Sri Lanka's national legal and institutional framework for measures to prevent WMD proliferation financing can be strengthened.

Highlights

The representatives of ministries and state agencies of Sri Lanka, who are responsible for implementing the international standards and UN Security Council resolutions obligations in the areas of anti-money laundering, asset freezing and WMD proliferation financing, were engaged in full discussions in the workshop.

The 1540 expert made a presentation and participated in technical discussions on all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), and its implementation in Sri Lanka with a particular focus on the gaps existed in the current legal system and enforcement. A revised UN act to implement resolution 1540 (2004) was drafted during a bilateral meeting the 1540 Expert had with the Sri Lanka legal drafters.

The Sri Lankan authorities demonstrated a strong intention to undertake measures to strengthen national implementation of international obligations, including resolution 1540 (2004), especially in the area of combating terrorist financing and proliferation financing and were responsive to the information and recommendations provided by the experts during the workshop.

Additional Comments

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