

Information Note¹

- Event:** India-UNODA capacity building program on implementation of UNSCR 1540 and strategic trade controls for Asia-Pacific States
- Organizer:** Indian government and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and Venue:** 25-27 February 2025, Palasamudram, Andhra Pradesh, India
- Participants:** Representatives from the Government of India Customs organization and various other ministries associated with export control activities, Government representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Iraq, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, the UNODA Regional Coordinator for Asia, and a 1540 Committee Expert

Background:

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations sent a Note Verbale to the Chair of the 1540 Committee (S/AC.44/2025/NOTE.10) inviting the Chair to participate in a Capacity Building Program on Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 and Strategic Trade Controls for Asia-Pacific States in 2025.

The capacity building program focused on strengthening export controls in the field of chemical, biological and/or nuclear weapons and related materials. Ten countries were invited to send up to three officials working in the areas of customs and/or border trade control, licensing and/or from another relevant regulatory body working in the area of chemical, biological and/or nuclear control from each country.

This training program was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions as follows:

Resolution 1540 (2004):

- Paragraph 3d requires all States to establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items, including appropriate laws and regulations to control export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export and controls on providing funds and services related to such export and trans-shipment such as financing, and transporting that would contribute to proliferation, as well as establishing end-user controls; and establishing and enforcing appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

Resolution 2663 (2022):

- Paragraph 12 reiterates that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ... particularly noting the need for more attention, among others, on national export and transshipment controls.
- Paragraph 25 requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, subregional, and, as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

Highlights:

The three-day training program was attended by participants from a total of eight countries and India that are involved in implementing export controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials. The participants were actively involved in the discussions on the various topics focused on export control. The agenda included presentations highlighting elements of an effective export control system, such as dual-use export control legislation, export control lists, licensing and enforcement, and supply chain implications, as well as reviewing the national implementation of obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. This was primarily provided through detailed presentations provided by the host country participants complemented by the sharing of experiences by other national participants.

The 1540 Committee expert delivered two presentations on “Overview of UNSC Resolution 1540 main obligations focusing on requirements regarding export controls” and “UNSC Resolution 1540 Assistance Mechanism”. This provided an opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) that form the basis for establishing export controls found in international instruments, including measures on export controls, as well as to provide information on the 1540 Committee’s assistance mechanism and other tools to support national implementation. The expert’s presentation included an interactive review and discussion about the Committee approved matrix template for Paragraphs 3(d) and related matters from Paragraph 6 of resolution 1540 (2004).

Additional comments

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