

Information Note¹

Event: Training Course for 1540 Points of Contact in the Asia-Pacific Region

Organizer: Co-hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the 1540 Committee and supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Date and Venue: 25-28 June 2024, Beijing, China

Participants²: Representatives from almost 30 regional Member States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Biological Weapons Convention – Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), the European Union – Partner to Partner Programme on Export Controls (EU P2P), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Representatives of the EU Delegation to China and Germany's Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA).

The Chair of 1540 Committee and members of the group of experts, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Background

On 25 March 2024, the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations sent a Note Verbale to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting him personally and the Committee's Group of Experts to participate in the Training Course for the 1540 Points of Contact (PoCs) in the Asia-Pacific Region to be held in Beijing from 25 to 28 June 2024. By correspondence of 4 April 2024 (S/AC.44/2024/OC.28), the Chair informed the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China that Committee had agreed to co-host the event and had accepted the invitation to participate in his capacity as the Chair of the 1540 Committee.

The Note Verbale informed that this training course is the fourth of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. It aimed to provide national PoCs with in-depth knowledge about the resolution's

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.

² Participants list attached for reference.

obligations and to provide a platform to discuss practical information, skills and guidance pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of the PoCs.

Before this event, the Committee supported in total nine Points of Contact training courses worldwide in cooperation with Member States as well as regional and sub-regional organisations, including the co-hosting of three of them in the People's Republic of China in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

The People's Republic of China concept note provided the following list of objectives of this event:

- Enhance understanding of the resolution and tools available to support its implementation;
- Empower and strengthen the network of 1540 Points of Contact throughout Asian States;
- Identify 1540-related priorities by Asian States;
- Contribute to strengthening the cooperation and interaction between States and the 1540 Committee;
- Increase the visibility of the role of the 1540 Committee in matching offers and requests for 1540-related assistance;
- Disseminate knowledge among States of Asia and the Pacific of the assistance offers available by the international and regional organizations (IROs), most notably the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs;
- Share experiences, lessons learned and effective practices among UN Member States, the 1540 Committee and IROs in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004); and
- Foster regional momentum for advanced implementation throughout Asia and the Pacific.

This event was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding the following operative paragraphs (OP) of resolution 1540 (2004)'s follow-up resolutions:

- Resolution 1810 (2008), in its OP5, [...] calls upon States and such organizations, if they have not done so previously, to provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact for assistance by 25 June 2008;
- Resolution 1977 (2011), in OP14, urges States [...] to inform the Committee as appropriate of areas in which they are able to provide assistance; and calls upon States [...], if they have not done so previously, to provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact for assistance by 31 August 2011;
- Resolution 2325 (2016), in its OP6, encourages all States that have not yet done so to provide the 1540 Committee with a point of contact for resolution 1540 (2004), and urges the Committee to continue to undertake initiatives to strengthen the capacity of such points of contact to assist on the implementation of the resolution, upon request of States, including through the continuation on a regional basis of the Committee's Point of Contact Training Programme.

Highlights

The 1540 Committee Chair, H.E José Javier De La Gasca of Ecuador, participated in this event, also supported by three members of the Committee's group of experts.

The 1540 Committee Chair delivered opening remarks stating that resolution 1540 (2004) represents a vital component of the international non-proliferation architecture and main guidance for the international community's efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to and by non-State actors. He also drew on resolution 1540 (2004) requirements to all Member States, outcomes of the last Comprehensive Review in 2022 and the importance of points of contact in facilitating the flow of information between the 1540 Committee and national authorities to coordinate national efforts related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, welcomed this regional event and remaining relevance 20 years after the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), since the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by non-States actors continues to grow. She emphasized that each Member States has a role and responsibility in preventing such proliferation, including the crucial role played by points of contact, as well as the importance of the cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations to reach this goal.

Mr. Christopher King, Chief of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, highlighted the importance of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and the crucial role played by points of contact in that regards, including for the liaison with the 1540 Committee and for the coordination of national implementation actions. He pointed out that this event constitutes an opportunity for a better understanding at regional and subregional scale of resolution 1540 (2004) requirements and contributes, with the support provided by UNODA, to capacity-building for implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

Ms. Maria Linder, Minister Counsellor from the EU Delegation to China, highlighted the European Union's commitment to investing in capacity-building within the framework of resolution 1540 (2004). These capacities extend to addressing diverse security challenges, from conventional arms control to the international circulation of dual-use technologies and bolstering the implementation of protection standards set by multilateral export control regimes. In that context, she promoted EU programmes in support of Member States implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including Partner-to Partner programme related to Export control and the CBRN Centre of Excellence.

Mr. Sun Xiaobo, Director-General of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, promoted resolution 1540 (2004) in the framework of international security architecture in a context of a growing threat of proliferation of WMD by non-State actors. He then thanked representatives from the Asia and Pacific region for their participation in this event. He stated the intention of China to advance global security governance, strengthen the international non-proliferation regime and promote the comprehensive, balanced and sustainable implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). He also emphasized the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory approaches in export control for allowing access of all countries to the benefits of scientific and technological development for peaceful purposes in the framework of a strengthened multilateral security architecture.

As per the objectives assigned, the event enhanced understanding of the resolution and tools available to support its implementation, including 1540 Committee national matrices, voluntary national implementation action plans and assistance mechanism. It illustrated and strengthened the cooperation and interaction between States and the 1540 Committee, the cooperation with IROs through their programme of assistance in supporting Member States efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004) and, finally, between Member States themselves through experiences sharing, lessons learned and their effective national practices. In addition, presentations by IROs of 1540-relevant multilateral instruments improved the understanding of their relationships with resolution 1540 (2004). It finally contributed to discussions on the role of PoCs and strengthened the network of 1540 points of contact throughout Asian and Pacific States.

Visits to the China Nuclear Security Technology Centre and to the China Institute of Atomic Energy provided participants with a great opportunity for concretizing implementation/enforcement activities in the framework of resolution 1540 (2004).

1540 experts took part in all 10 sessions of the four-days training course and made nine thematic presentations. These presentations highlighted the full spectrum of the obligations under resolution 1540 and the implementation supporting tools, as well as complementarities and overlaps of resolution 1540 (2004) with other international instruments. They also facilitated exchanges and discussions through all sessions.

The experts supported the Chair in informal bilateral meetings with representatives from several participating Member States. These meetings constituted an opportunity to encourage the submission of national reports or additional implementation information, voluntary national implementation action plans, to discuss updated information about points of contact, and to get feedback on implementation efforts and assistance needed as appropriate.

Additional comments

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