

Information Note¹

- Event:** Regional Meeting for Stakeholders involved in supporting implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Asia
- Organizer(s):** The Government of Japan, the Government of USA, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) and United Nations University
- Date and Venue:** 7-8 March 2023, Tokyo, Japan (hybrid)
- Participants:** *Governments:* Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, U.K. and USA
- International and regional Organisations and Arrangements:* Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), European Union, International Maritime Organization (IMO), Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), UNODA, Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)-Implementation Support Unit, World Customs Organization (WCO) and 1540 Committee Group of Experts
- NGOs and Thinktanks:* Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC), James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Strategic Trade Research Institute (STRI), Stimson Center and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) and Pacific Forum

Background

In a letter dated 3 February 2023, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan invites the Chair to nominate members of the Committee's Group of Experts to participate in a Regional Meeting for Stakeholders involved in supporting implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in the ASEAN to be held on 7-8 March 2023 in Tokyo.

According to the invitation letter, the meeting will contribute to identifying and coordinating the offers of 1540-related assistance made by both Members States and International, Regional and Sub-regional Organizations; take stock of the current and future 1540-related needs and requests as expressed by ASEAN States; and to engage the donor community on how best to fulfil its role in financially supporting the matching of offers and requests for assistance for the development of 1540 assistance projects.

This workshop is of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding the following operative paragraphs (OPs) of resolution 2663 (2022):

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.

OP1: Reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution;

OP9: Encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of relevant expertise, to continue to actively engage in dialogue with Member States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation;

OP17: Directs the 1540 Committee to periodically review, as appropriate, the role, efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee's mechanism for matching offers and requests for assistance, as well as the status of assistance matters, including progress on matching of assistance requests and offers, the functioning of the assistance mechanism, and any necessary improvements such as revisions to the voluntary assistance request template to this end, as needed;

OP18: Requests the 1540 Committee to maintain an updated comprehensive list of assistance providers, as well as make available to Member States such assistance and capacity-building programs which might facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

OP19: Urges the 1540 Committee to make its expertise fully available to Member States, as appropriate, during the preparation of their voluntary requests for assistance, including through the provision of dedicated workshops, and in the follow-up of assistance requests, to ensure that requests are better fulfilled in line with the specific needs of Member States;

OP20: Encourages Member States receiving assistance as well as providers of assistance to provide feedback to the 1540 Committee on the fulfilment of the assistance requests, including activities, achievements, and areas of opportunity, as appropriate, with a view to improve the Committee's match-making;

OP21: Urges the 1540 Committee, using its full expertise, to promote the facilitation of technical assistance through, as appropriate, organizing, co-organizing, participating in or supporting international and regional assistance conferences, which bring together Member States that request assistance with those offering assistance, and further encourages Member States, including those in the region with relevant expertise, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in a position to do so, to support such efforts; and

OP23: Continues to call upon relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to designate, provide and update, as appropriate, to the 1540 Committee with a Point of Contact or Coordinator for Resolution 1540 (2004); and encourages them to enhance cooperation and information sharing with the 1540 Committee and Member States on technical assistance and all other issues of relevance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

This workshop is also of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding the following paragraphs of the Program of Work for the period from 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024:

Paragraph 13: The Committee will facilitate technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular by making its expertise fully available to Member

States in their preparation of voluntary requests for assistance and in the follow-up of assistance requests, and engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance, by bringing together States that request assistance with those offering assistance. The Committee will promote the use of the Assistance template for this purpose, and provide its expertise to states requesting assistance, including through dedicated workshops where requested; and

Paragraph 15: The Committee will promote the facilitation of technical assistance to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), including as appropriate through organising, participating in or supporting assistance conferences, where appropriate in collaboration with international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

Highlights

In the opening remarks, Mr. Hideaki Ishii, Director of Non-Proliferation, Science and Nuclear Energy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, welcomed participants and highlighted the continuing threat of WMDs and the risk they pose to global security, particularly in Asia as a hub of the global supply chain. Mr. Marwala Tshilidzi, Rector of United Nations University then noted that the United Nations University and other academic institutions could provide research and training support to the UN system in order to prevent the proliferation of WMD by state and non-state actors, and emphasized the need for global solidarity and responsible citizenship and called for education and equal access to resources to address issues related to sustainable development, global peace, and non-proliferation. Mr. Ismail Balla, Head of 1540 Support Unit and Senior Political Affairs Office of UNODA subsequently called for continuous support on national and international levels and hoped that the meeting would move closer to advancing effective action in addressing global security concerns.

During the seminar, representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Timor-Leste made presentations and discussed the recent development in their respective countries. In the following sessions, introductions were made by assistance providers for each of the main obligations under operative paragraphs of the resolution 1540 (2004), following the presentation by a 1540 Expert on the 1540 Committee's assistance mechanism.

The seminar offered a valuable opportunity for the Group of Experts to brief the relevant audience on resolution 1540 obligations and interact directly with national representatives, and be informed of the latest activities by various assistance providers, especially to ASEAN countries.

Additional Comments

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