

Information Note¹

- Event:** Strengthening cross-border capacity for control and detection of CBRN substances in the North Africa and Sahel region (CoE Project 55 – Fronsec)
- Organizer:** European Union CBRN Centre of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE), with the support UNICRI and Expertise France
- Date and Venue:** 11 May 2022, Virtual event
- Participants:** Police commissioners (Morocco), the Royal Gendarmerie (Morocco), Morocco Nuclear Safety Agency, Prime Minister Political adviser (Niger), Management of Hazardous wastes (Niger), Ministry of Transportation (Niger).

Background

On 16 March 2022, the Technical Director of the EU CBRN CoE Project 55 (P55), sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting the 1540 Committee Chair or a representative to participate in the first dialogue on international capacity-building support addressed to Morocco and Niger, aiming at strengthening cross-border capacity for control and detection of CBRN substances in the North Africa and Sahel region. This project is implemented, on behalf of the European Commission, by a consortium led by Expertise France.

This meeting was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee with regard to the following operative paragraphs (OPs) of resolution 1540 (2004) and follow-up:

- Resolution 1977 (2011) OP5(b) encourages the 1540 Committee, with the support of necessary relevant expertise, to actively engage in dialogue with States on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to continue to participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional and national level.
- Resolution 2325 (2016) OP1 reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully and effectively that resolution;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) OP12 decides that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), through its Programme of Work, which includes the compilation and general examination of information on the status of States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and addresses all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of that resolution, particularly noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to

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- biological, chemical and nuclear weapons; proliferation finance measures; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls;
- Resolution 2325 (2016) OP22 encourages the Committee to develop, in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations, assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) in order to facilitate the prompt and direct response to assistance requests.

Highlights

The webinar took place on 11 May 2022 and was carried out in French. This event provided representatives of Morocco and Niger with the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of resolution 1540 (2004) and its obligations, as well as to share experiences and effective practices on export controls. The meeting was attended by 35 participants from the respective customs agencies, Police commissioners (Morocco), the Royal Gendarmerie (Morocco), Morocco Nuclear Safety Agency, Prime Minister Political adviser (Niger), Management of Hazardous Wastes (Niger), Ministry of Transportation (Niger).

A representative of Canada's Customs Agency also participated. The participation of the 1540 Experts was an opportunity to contribute to the workshop to enhance awareness of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular OP3 c&d on export control measures.

The webinar was opened by Anne-Sophie Lequarré, European Commission representative of P55 technical director. She first congratulated the P55 beneficiaries in North Africa and Sahel region for their mobilisation as well as P55 team and other stakeholders coordination efforts in the region to strengthen cross-border capacity for control and detection of CBRN substances, including by complying with diverse relevant international conventions. She highlighted the proactive approach of Morocco and Niger that aims at making concrete elements of P55.

Finally, the 1540 Expert made a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004), starting with an overview of the resolution itself and related key obligations, and some definitions drawing on the scope of the resolution: Non-state actor, NBC-weapons related materials, means of delivery. The Expert delivered a brief overview of resolution 1540 requirements and focused on OP3c&d dealing with export controls. The Expert detailed activities that must be controlled (export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export, as well as the providing of funds and services that could contribute to proliferation). The concepts of control lists and end-user controls were raised. Involvement of all relevant national Ministries as well as international cooperation was also promoted as a way to detect, deter, prevent and combat illicit trafficking and brokering. The Expert also described resolution 1540's requirements to enforce appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control measures. An overview of resolution 1540's level of implementation provided an opportunity for introducing the 1540 Committee's tool kit: reporting and matrices, Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAPs) and the assistance mechanism.

Outreach by the Committee has been identified as a key challenge in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by Member States requiring continuous assistance, ideally in an

international or regional format, which is reason these two Countries have been participating in the CoE Project 55 dedicated to CBRN related risks in North Africa and the Sahel region.

Additional Comments

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