

Information Note¹

Event: National Introductory Workshop on Cambodia's development of a voluntary 1540 National Action Plan (vNAP)

Organizer: Kingdom of Cambodia with the support of United Nations Office for Disarmament (UNODA) and Government of Japan

Date and Venue: 25-27 April 2023, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Participants:

- General Secretariat of the National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons (NACW), General Secretariat of the Royal Government, Secretariat of National Counter Terrorism Committee, Commissioner-General of the National Police, General Command of the Royal Cambodia Armed Forces, Royal Gendarmerie, General National Police, Civil Aviation Authority, Council of Ministers, Ministries of: Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mines and Energy, Justice, Industry Sciences Technology and Innovation, Commerce, Customs and Excise, Environment, Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Water Resources and Meteorology, Health, Public Works and Transport, Post and Telecommunication;
- Representatives of the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), EU P2P Export Control Programme (EU P2P), German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), the United States Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS), Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC), Global Trade Security Consulting (GTSC), Pacific Forum, VERTIC;
- Representatives of Japan, Lao PDR and Mongolia;
- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA);
- 1540 Committee Expert.

Background

In a letter dated 17 March 2023, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations invited the Committee to participate in a national workshop on 25-27 April 2023 that would serve to Cambodia's intention to develop a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (vNAP) on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). This event was relevant with resolution 1540 (2004) and follow up resolutions' operative paragraphs:

- Resolution 1540 (2004), in its Operative paragraph 1, requires all States to refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture,

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possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Operative paragraph 2 requires all States to adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws prohibiting such activities by non-State actors on their territories. Operative paragraph 3 requires all States to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials. Operative paragraph 7 recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of the resolution.

- Resolution 1810 (2008), in its Operative paragraph 5, encourages States to convey assistance requests to the Committee.
- Resolution 2325 (2016) emphasizes the importance of providing States, in response to requests, with effective assistance that meets their needs. Operative paragraph 16 encourages the 1540 Committee to continue to engage actively in dialogue with States, including in the context of ongoing updating of the implementation data it holds, and through visits to States, at their invitation, by the Committee;
- Resolution 2663 (2022), in its Operative paragraph 8, again encourages States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee and its expertise as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit these plans to the 1540 Committee;

Highlights

The workshop was attended by over 60 national and international participants. National entities included the ministries and organisations that would jointly work towards effectively implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The active engagement of relevant government authorities demonstrated Cambodia's engagement to the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The event provided a good platform for the Cambodia Government to analyse the current status of implementation of the resolution, prioritize its actions and coordinate amongst Cambodian authorities. It also provided a good platform for international actors to understand better Cambodia's implementation needs, engage in tailor made dialogues and coordinate potential assistance programmes in the future.

This event illustrated the key role of the 1540 Committee Expert who delivered presentations on resolution 1540 (2004) for raising awareness on resolution 1540 (2004) requirements to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by non-States actors. This participation provided an appreciated support in drafting a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan, raising the opportunity to make use of the 1540 Committee assistance mechanism for matching needs with offers by relevant potential providers of assistance.

Additional Comments

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