

Information Note¹

- Event:** Conference of Partnership Programmes on Strategic Trade Controls of Dual-use Goods in South-East Asia Follow-up Meeting
- Organizer(s):** European Union's EUP2P Program in association with the United States Department of State Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Government of Japan
- Date and Venue:** 8 March 2023, Tokyo, Japan (hybrid)
- Participants:** *Governments:* Canada, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, U.K. and USA
- International and regional Organisations and Arrangements:* European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), 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

Background

In a letter sent by Ms Natalie Pauwels, Head of Unit, Global and Transregional Threats and Challenges, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, European Union, the Chair was invited to nominate a representative to participate in a follow-up meeting of Conference of Partnership Programmes on Strategic Trade Controls of Dual-use Goods in South-East Asia to be held on 8 March 2023 in Tokyo on the margins of the Regional Meeting for Stakeholders involved in supporting implementation of UN Security resolution 1540 (2004) in ASEAN.

According to the invitation letter, the meeting will provide an opportunity to exchange lessons from the actions undertaken since October 2022 for enhancing the coordination and cooperation of international actors and donor programmes pertaining to UNSCR 1540 Operative Paragraph 3(d) on export and transshipment controls, as well as identifying further initiatives to be built in these areas.

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

- 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;
- OP11: Encourages Member States to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);

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.

- 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 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

The meeting was opened by Mr. Hideaki Ishii, Director of Non-Proliferation, Science and Nuclear Energy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, who welcomed participants and commended EUP2P and UNODA for achieving projects of nonproliferation and further emphasized the need for improvement particularly in Asia.

During the seminar, representatives from EUP2P, UNICRI, WCO, United States, Singapore, U.K. Japan and Republic of Korea shared information of their recent activities in the region.

Subsequently, the EUP2P and UNODA suggested ideas for further enhancing coordination of the activities.

The seminar offered a valuable opportunity for the Group of Experts to be informed of the latest activities by various assistance providers in Asian region.

Additional Comments

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