

Information Note¹

- Event:** First Programme Committee Meeting of the 2024 International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS)
- Organizer:** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Date and Venue:** 1-3 March 2023, Vienna, Austria
- Participants:** States: Armenia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Ghana, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States (non-exhaustive)
- International and regional Organizations: 1540 Committee, UN office on Countering Terrorism (UNOCT), European Union

Background

- Resolution 1540 (2004) in Operative Paragraph 3 requires Member States to “(a) Develop and maintain appropriate effective measures to account for and secure [related materials] in production, use, storage or transport; and to (b) Develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures.”
- Resolution 2325 (2016) endorses the valuable interaction of the Committee with relevant international, regional, and subregional organizations, and emphasizing the need for coordination, as appropriate, between the Committee and those organizations.
- In a letter dated 18 January, Ms Elena Buglova, Director, Division of Nuclear Security of IAEA, invited the Chair and/or his representative to participate in the first Programme Committee Meeting of 2024 ICONS Conference.
- The purpose of the meeting was to hold preliminary discussions on the 2024 ICONS Conference, to establish a common understanding of the scientific and technical programme, to establish a work plan, and to develop an initial draft programme for the conference.

Highlights

The first Programme Committee Meeting of 2024 ICONS was chaired by Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz of Costa Rica and Ms Catarina Danestig Sjögren, Section Head of Swedish Radiation Safety Authority. Representatives from around 20 Member States and international organizations participated in this meeting and discussed the 2024 ICONS themes and topics, conference logistics and administration, and conference communication and outreach strategy.

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.

IAEA gave presentations on the background and preparations for ICONS 2024, with a review of the involvement of the nuclear security process and the themes and outcome of previous ICONS conference. Administration and logistics of previous conferences were also introduced. The meeting participants, facilitated by the co-Chairs, discussed the possible themes and topics of ICONS 2024, its organization and logistics, media strategy and communication and desired outcome.

In the discussion of the policy segment topics, the participating 1540 Committee expert emphasized that nuclear security matters are an important element of resolution 1540 and briefly introduced the nuclear security requirements stipulated by resolution 1540 (2004). Resolution 1540 aspects specific to nuclear security included requirements that states take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery, and related materials. States should develop and maintain appropriate and effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport, and to develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures.

Additional comments

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