

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

- Event:** International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) Universalization Youth Academy
- Organizers:** United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), funded by the Government of Canada
- Date and Venue:** 10 – 13 September 2024, Vienna, Austria
- Participants:** *Government representatives from other States:*  
Representatives from Andorra, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Ecuador, Gambia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- International representatives:*  
Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna; Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations in Vienna; United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC); Global Affairs Canada; Inter American Committee against Terrorism - Organization of American States (OAS/CICTE); African Center for Science and International Security (AFRISIS); International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UN/OLA); Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP); Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) (video-message); Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) (virtual); and an expert of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

### **Background**

In a letter dated 05 August 2024 from United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Chief Terrorism Prevention Branch, Mr. Roberto Arbitrio, the Chair of the 1540 Committee, Mr. José Javier De La Gasca, was invited to designate an expert from the 1540 Committee’s Group of Experts to participate in the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) Universalization Youth Academy*, in Vienna, Austria, from 10 to 13 September 2024.

The event was organized by the UNODC, funded by the Government of Canada, and comprised of presentations, a case study on the Convention, a session on gender diversity and inclusivity, as well as a mentoring session featuring high-level officials from Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society.

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<sup>1</sup> For information – this is 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.

Through four days of presentations, practical exercises and guest lectures, the 2024 UNODC ICSANT Academy aimed to raise awareness of the importance of becoming party to, and fully implementing the referred Convention and to build a network of youth national champions to advocate for adherence to the ICSANT within their respective governments.

This international event was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding resolution 1540 (2004) and 2663 (2022) as follows:

- Resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties or have made other commitments aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, ... weapons, and have taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials.
- Under operative paragraph 1 (OP1) of resolution 1540 (2004) it is decided that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, ... weapons and their means of delivery.
- Under OP 2 it is decided also that all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, ... weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them.
- Under OP 3 it is decided also that all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, ... weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials.
- Resolution 1540 (2004) recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of this resolution within their territories and invites States in a position to do so to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests to the States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the above provisions.
- Resolution 2663 (2022), under its OP 12, reiterates the Security Council's decision that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ... noting the need for more attention on: enforcement measures; measures relating to ... nuclear weapons; accounting for and securing related materials; and national export and transshipment controls.
- Furthermore, OP 25 of resolution 2663 (2022) requests the 1540 Committee to continue to organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, subregional, and, as appropriate, national level, including, as appropriate, inviting parliamentarians, as well as representatives of civil society, including industry and academia and promote the refinement of these outreach efforts to focus on specific thematic and regional issues related to implementation.

The event was also of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee regarding the following paragraphs of the Program of Work for the period from 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025:

- Paragraph 16: The Committee will promote the facilitation of technical assistance to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), including as appropriate through organizing,

participating in or supporting assistance conferences, where appropriate in collaboration with international, regional and subregional organizations; and

- Paragraph 24: The Committee will organize and participate in outreach events on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at the international, regional, sub-regional, and as appropriate national level, including on specific thematic and regional issues....

### **Highlights**

The welcome and opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Maria Lorenzo Sobrado, Head, CBRN Terrorism Prevention Programme (UNODC), and Ms. Angela Veitch, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna. The event was also attended by international experts from the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts; UNODC; OAS/CICTE; AFRICISIS; Interpol; IAEA/OLA; UN/OLA; VCDNP; PGA (video-message); and NTI (virtual).

The event brought together 17 selected young participants (including ten females) holding key positions at the national level related to treaty adherence and representing the 15 States not yet party to ICSANT. During four days of presentations, they participated in practical exercises and attended guest lectures aimed to raise awareness on the importance of becoming party to, and fully implementing the Convention, as well as to build a network of youth national champions to advocate for adherence to ICSANT within their respective governments.

Considering that the 1540 Committee's expert was invited to present in the "*Session II – Synergies*", when another presentation was done by an IAEA's representative on the ICSANT synergies with the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment (A/CPPNM), the expert delivered a presentation with the title "*UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004): Key obligations regarding non-proliferation of nuclear weapon related materials*", which covered topics such as the composition of the 1540 Committee; overview and implementation of UNSCR 1540; key UNSCR 1540 obligations and provisions with respect to WMD and to nuclear weapons related materials; overview of the 1540 Matrix with respect to WMD; and overview of the overlaps between resolution 1540 (2004) and ICSANT.

On the last day of the event, participants and lecturers visited the *IAEA's Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC)*, located in Seibersdorf, Austria, The NSTDC mission is "*to assist countries in establishing and continuously strengthening their national nuclear security regimes to prevent, detect and respond to acts and threats of nuclear terrorism with the aim of protecting persons, property, society and the environment. Through a training programme designed to address identified needs and gaps, the NSTDC offers access to hands-on training, advanced technology and equipment.*"

### **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).