

Information Note¹

- Event:** Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) Technical Outreach Meeting (TOM)
- Organizer:** MTCR and Norway
- Date and Venue:** 16 June 2023, Oslo, Norway
- Participants:** Government representatives from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, UAE, UK, Ukraine, United States
Representatives from the MTCR, Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Wassenaar Arrangements (WA)
1540 Committee Expert

Background

By means of a letter for the attention of the Chair of the 1540 Committee dated 20 May 2023, Ambassador Benno Laggner, MTCR Chair, invited a representative of the Group of Experts to participate in the MTCR Technical Outreach Meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to inform non-Regime members about recent changes to the MTCR Equipment, Software and Technology Annex, to discuss, at a technical level, issues of mutual interest, and to provide a platform for all participants to make national presentations on licensing and enforcement.

This event was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee with regard to resolution 1540 (2004) and subsequent resolutions as follows:

- Resolution 1540 (2004):
 - OP 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.
- Resolution 2663 (2022):
 - OP 1 reiterates its decisions in and the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), and re-emphasizes the importance for all States to implement fully that resolution.

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.

- OP 11 encourages Member States to voluntarily share their experiences, lessons learned and best practices regarding implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- OP 12 reiterates that the 1540 Committee shall continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) ... particularly noting the need for more attention, among others, on national export and transshipment controls.
- OP 25 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.

Highlights

The meeting, with a total of 59 participants, was opened by Ambassador Benno Laggner, MTCR Chair, who underlined that rapid technological developments require common efforts and pointed out the importance of this technical outreach meeting in this regard. He also noted that the MTCR supports the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the area of “means of deliver” and welcomed the participation of a representative of the Group of Experts supporting the 1540 Committee.

In his subsequent presentation he highlighted the common basis in the MTCR: MTCR Guidelines and the list of controlled items and presented three pillars of the MTCR: harmonized export control, information sharing and outreach. The agenda of the meeting included furthermore presentations on recent MTCR Annex changes, on emerging technologies and associated challenges and on export controls.

The meeting provided an opportunity to update the participants on recent amendments of the MTCR Annex and on some latest technological developments relevant to the MTCR. Furthermore, it enabled an exchange of information on export control systems, in particular on catch-all controls, transit and transshipment controls and controls of Intangible Technology Transfers. It further allowed an exchange on experiences and lessons learned regarding outreach to industry and academia.

The meeting also presented an opportunity to highlight the importance of full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Additional comments

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