

Information Note¹

- Event:** Best Practice Guide for Implementation of UNSCR 1540: OSCE Compendium of Suggested Implementation Practices meeting
- Organizer(s):** OSCE Informal Group of Friends on the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
- Date and Venue:** 27 April 2021, via online platform

Background

- Resolution 1540 (2004) decides that all States shall take and enforce, inter alia, 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. It requires, in particular, that they shall develop and maintain effective physical protection and accounting measures, develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, the illicit trafficking of such items in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law.
- Under OP 11 (e) of resolution 1810 (2008) the Security Council requested the 1540 Committee to provide opportunities for interaction with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).
- In a preambular paragraph of resolution 1977 (2011) the Security Council recognized the need to enhance coordination of efforts at national, regional, subregional and international levels, as appropriate, in order to strengthen a global response to the serious challenge and threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

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.

- Pursuant to OP 10 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council urges the 1540 Committee to continue to engage actively with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective practices, in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), drawing in particular on information provided by States as well as examples of successful assistance, and to liaise on the availability of programmes which might facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), while bearing in mind that customized assistance is useful for the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) at national levels.
- By means of a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee dated 7 April 2021, Co-Chairs of the OSCE Informal Group of Friends on the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) Ambassador Luis Manuel Cuesta Civis, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE and Ambassador Andrei Dapkiunas, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the OSCE invited the Expert of the 1540 Group of Experts to participate in the meeting of the OSCE Informal Group of Friends on 27 April 2021, to be held in virtual format. The letter noted that meeting was aimed at discussing the current draft of the compilation of the Best Practice Guide for Implementation of UNSCR 1540: OSCE Compendium of Suggested Implementation Practices.

Highlights and Overview:

The event was opened by a welcome speech from the OSCE 1st Committee Chair Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE Luis Manuel Cuesta Civis. In the speech, he mentioned the importance of the resolution 1540 implementation process had been started in 2007, the contributions of Tajikistan, Ukraine and the USA that actively supported the process and distributed ongoing work on the document, gave special thanks to Armenia which was the “father” of the process and the activity of experts who worked on the structure and modalities of the first draft. Mr Civis also expressed his hope on the further contributions and constructive support.

Mr Andrei Lozovik, OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Chairperson’s Coordinator on non-proliferation issues noted some clarified agenda points of the meeting and described the background and the structure of the draft Best Practice Guide for Implementation of UNSCR 1540 distributed on 16 March 2021.

The representatives from the USA (DoS), Switzerland (Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE), Russia (MFA), OSCE (Conflict Prevention Centre) presented some key points of their views on the draft Compendium of Best Practices of OSCE’s Member-States, commending the efforts to produce a first draft of a complicated and difficult text, and offered proposals on some structural adjustments, suggestions and guidance on how to move forward.

The 1540 Expert highlighted the resolution 2572 adopted on 22 April 2021, the 1540 Committee’s work on the Modalities Paper of the 2021 Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation

of resolution 1540 and the current situation regarding the Programme of Work related to the Review.

The OSCE 1st Committee Chair suggested that some bilateral consultations and another meeting would be needed to pursue.

Additional Comments

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