

Information Note¹

Event:	SECDIV-NIPS Islamabad International Conference: Promoting Strategic Trade Controls through International Cooperation
Organizer:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and Pakistan NUST Institute of Policy Studies
Date and Venue:	5-6 September at Islamabad, Pakistan
Participants:	Australia, China, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Romania, Russia, 1540 Committee, Nuclear Suppliers Group, MTCR, Australia Group, NGOs and independent consultants

Background

On 14 July 2022, Muhammed Kamran Akhatar, Director General of Arms Control & Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan invited the Chair or his representative to participate in the International Conference on promoting Strategic Trade Controls through International Cooperation on 5-6 September 2022 at Islamabad.

The Conference covered a wide range of topics on non-proliferation and export controls and aimed at providing a forum for regular exchange of experiences, views and consultation among the relevant experts and representatives of regional countries as well as international organizations and partners.

Highlights

The conference was attended by over two hundred participants and served as a platform for participants to share the experience and effective practices on export control measures, reflect on current status of export control regimes, identify challenges and stimulate discussions on possible ways forward in promoting global efforts against proliferation of WMDs and their delivery systems.

During the opening session, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar highlighted Pakistan's legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks for exercising effective controls over transfers of sensitive goods and technologies to prevent their diversion to non-peaceful uses. She reiterated that Pakistan remained fully cognizant of its obligations pertaining to non-proliferation and disarmament. Over the years, Pakistan had streamlined and strengthened its export control regime and was at par with the international export control standards and best

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practices. She underlined that Pakistan possesses the expertise, infrastructure, human resource and the ability to supply items listed in Control Lists of the NSG. emphasized the need to have objective criteria for the NSG membership of non-NPT States that should be applied without discrimination.

Ms Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, delivered a pre-recorded statement to the conference. In the statement, she reiterated the necessity and significance of effective trade control measures, identified the challenges faced due to change and developments in the international situation, and rapid and accelerating developments in technology. She pointed out that multilateral trade controls could only be effective if all the necessary actors play constructive role in the rule making process. She also pointed out United Nations' central role to assist states to prevent non-state actors from acquiring WMDs. Resolution 1540 (2004) had proven to be an effective and universally accepted framework that had enabled states to work together to accomplish their non-proliferation goals. It contributed to the strengthening of national controls and had complemented many other international arrangements. It did so while upholding the rights of all states to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes. The experience in supporting the resolution had demonstrated that inclusive approach must remain the cornerstone of our collective efforts in addressing proliferation risks without hampering the development of commercial, industry and technology interests.

In the 2-day conference, the participants discussed national implementation experience and practice, developments and progress in national strategic trade management, challenges of new technologies to international export controls and export control regimes and challenges.

The participants also visited Pakistan Center of Excellence on Nuclear Security as part of the programme.

Additional Comments

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