

Information Note¹

- Event:** Regional Expert-level Meeting on “Proliferation Financing Risks in Southeast Asia: Supporting States in the Region Identifying and Addressing Traditional and Emerging Threats”
- Organizers:** United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- Date and Venue:** 14-16 March 2023, Turin, Italy
- Participants:** Representatives from the Governments of Lao PDR, Cambodia, The Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and the UK; UNICRI officials and Experts; Experts from King’s College London and from the Royal United Services Institute; the 1540 Expert.

Background

By means of a letter for the attention of the Chair of the 1540 Committee, dated 25 January 2023, Ms Antonia Marie De Meo, Director of UNICRI, invited a representative of the Group of Experts to participate in the Regional Expert-level Meeting on “Proliferation Financing Risks in Southeast Asia: Supporting States in the Region Identifying and Addressing Traditional and Emerging Threats”. The letter stated that the Expert would be expected to deliver an overview presentation on the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and successor resolutions relating to proliferation financing, with a focus on Southeast Asia. The letter added that the event aimed to improve understanding of the threat posed by malicious actors’ CBRN proliferation financing activities in Southeast Asia; enhance awareness of international standards and sanctions to counter proliferation finance; showcase lessons learned and good practices; and identify priority actions to mitigate current risks.

This workshop was of relevance to resolution 1540 (2004) as follows:

- Under operative paragraph 2 of resolution 1540 (2004), all States must adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws to prohibit any non-State actor from financing activities related to manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for

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.

terrorist purposes. In addition, under operative paragraph 3 all States must 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 and, under operative paragraph 3(d), all States must establish appropriate effective national controls on providing funds and services related to export and trans-shipment of such items, including financing. All States are required to establish and enforce appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations;

- Under operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2325 (2016) the Security Council particularly noted the need for the Committee to pay more to proliferation finance measures;
- Furthermore, the Security Council, under operative paragraph 12 of resolution 2663 (2022), particularly noted the need for the Committee to pay more attention to proliferation finance measures.

Highlights

The workshop was opened by Mr Francesco Morin, UNICRI Programme Coordinator, Nuclear Security, on behalf of Mr Francesco Morelli, Head of Unit. The workshop was the final element of a project funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) entitled “Strengthening Capacities to Identify and Mitigate CBRN Proliferation Finance Risks in SE Asia”.

The 1540 Expert gave a presentation on the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and successor resolutions, emphasizing the resolution’s focus on threats posed by non-State actors. The Expert described the elements of the resolution relating to proliferation finance. The Expert also gave a brief overview of the status of implementation of 1540 measures in the Southeast Asia region based on Committee matrix data, and of the proliferation finance measures recorded in those matrices.

Following presentations by the other Experts and consultants at the workshop participants discussed challenges to building a comprehensive counter-proliferation finance regime, elements of a proliferation finance national risk assessment, proliferation finance indicators, typologies and case studies, and States’ capacity-building needs and priorities. This workshop effectively covered the range of topics relating to the rather complex subject to proliferation finance. Participants expressed appreciation for UNICRI’s assistance to their national efforts to develop and enforce effective legislation to combat proliferation finance and welcomed UNICRI’s plans to develop further related programmes in the region.

Additional Comments

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