

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

- Event:** Wiesbaden Conference “Industry engagement in export controls: Recommendations for effective approaches to implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)”
- Organizer:** Government of Germany in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
- Date and Venue:** 8-9 February 2023, Wiesbaden, Germany
- Participants:** Government representatives from Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Georgia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zambia,
- Representatives from European Union, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), as well as international industry and academia representatives, 1540 Committee Expert

### **Background**

By means of a letter dated 21 December 2022, the Government of Germany invited the Chair of the 1540 Committee to nominate a member of the Group of Experts to participate in the Wiesbaden Conference 2023, and to make a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004).

The letter recorded that as part of its longstanding commitment to the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004), Germany initiated in 2011 the “Wiesbaden Process”, with the aim of bringing representatives of governments, regulators and industry together in a dialog on export controls and non-proliferation. Over the last ten years, Germany has hosted a series of international “Wiesbaden Conferences”, complemented by five regional conferences over the course of the past five years.

The aim of the 7<sup>th</sup> international “Wiesbaden Conference 2023” was to bring together experts from various sectors of industry, government agencies, intergovernmental organizations and academia and to focus on recommendations for effective approaches to implementing UNSCR 1540 (2004).

This conference was of direct relevance to the 1540 Committee with regard to resolution 1540 (2004) and its subsequent resolutions:

- While resolution 1540 (2004) imposes binding obligations on all UN Member States, industry and the private sector can play an important role in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and in achieving its objective of combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to and by non-state actors.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- The role of industry in the effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) has been referred to in OP 8d of resolution 1540 (2004), which calls upon all States to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under such laws.
- Finally, the most recent 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 (OP25).

### **Highlights**

The 7<sup>th</sup> international Wiesbaden Conference was held in person after three years break and brought together 82 participants from different countries, international and other organizations, industries and universities.

The conference focused on taking stock of 10 years of the Wiesbaden Process and therefore summaries of past international and regional conferences were provided by representatives of Germany, India, Mexico, Republic of Korea, and Zambia.

Apart from discussions on different challenges of export controls, industry representatives were also informed about the state of play on controls of tangible and intangible transfers from export control authorities from around the world. Government representatives from Brazil, China, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Philippines, and USA provided overviews about export controls developments in their respective States.

During the conference it was underlined several times that cooperation among all stakeholders involved in the export controls, such as governmental institutions and private sector is of vital importance and that conferences like those are valuable and helpful for industry representatives to better understand controls requirements and needs for internal compliance. It was highlighted that effective export control can only function as a common goal based on a cooperative approach between government and industry.

The conference also presented a valuable opportunity to enhance awareness of the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004) and to inform the participants about the outcomes of the conducted Comprehensive Review and the most recent resolution 2663 (2022).

Germany has confirmed its intention to continue the Wiesbaden Process on the international and regional level. Two regional Wiesbaden Conferences were announced for this year, in Latin America and Asia. Furthermore, Germany is going to launch a similar process regarding outreach to academia, so called “Erlangen Project”. The kick-off event is planned for May 2023 in The Haag and the international conference in autumn in Germany.

### **Additional comments**

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