

Information Note¹

Event: Workshop on “Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (by non-State actors)”

Organizers: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of Mongolia

Date and Venue: 17-19 September 2019, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Participants: *Countries:* Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, the Philippines, Nepal, Sri Lanka (representatives from a variety of different ministries)
International Organisations: UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), 1540 Committee Group of Experts.
NGOs, Academic Institutions and Others: The Middlebury Institute and Western Union.

Highlights

The Workshop was opened by His Excellency Mr. D. Gerel, Head of the Mongolian General Intelligence Agency. He said Mongolia fully supported resolution 1540 (2004) which was crucial to maintenance of international peace and security. Mongolia fully supported international efforts to combat terrorism and worked closely with partners to this end. On behalf of the Government of

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee nor the organisers or participants in the event.

Japan, which provided financial support for the Workshop, Mr. S. Hayahsi, the Deputy Head of the Embassy of Japan in Ulaanbaatar, welcomed participants and noted the importance of the meeting to supporting States in the region to implement resolution 1540 (2004) fully.

Presentations were made by UNODC on the work and objectives of the UNODC to counter terrorism and proliferation, in particular in Asia, the threats in these respects and support to States provided by UNODC. A member of the 1267 Monitoring Team gave an overview of UN sanctions regimes and their obligations, particularly resolution 1267 (1998) and its requirements related to terrorist financing. The 1540 Committee Expert described the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and the work of the Committee in monitoring and promoting effective implementation of the resolution. He drew attention to the 1540 website which included information on approaches taken by UN Member States to meet their obligations in these respects. He described the financial requirements of resolution 1540 (2004) and approaches taken by Member States to meet these.

Additional expert presentations were made by a speaker from Western Union, on the potential value of financial data both for conducting investigations into terrorist-related activities, and for predictive/prevention purposes, and a speaker from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies who described a variety of open-source intelligence tools that can be used by authorities to support investigations into terrorism or WMD proliferation, including their financing.

Each of the States represented gave presentations on their legislative frameworks for countering terrorist financing and financing of WMD proliferation, focusing on recent developments, and highlighting challenges they faced. A major element of this Workshop was a multi-staged table-top exercise, developed over successive days, designed to assist participants to consider issues related to cooperation and coordination between government departments, and the private sector, domestically and internationally, in order to counter proliferation, terrorism and its financing.

The 1540 Expert reminded participants of the need for full implementation of the resolution and reaffirmed that the Committee and the Group of Experts stood ready to support States' efforts to achieve this.

Additional Comments

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