

Information Note¹

- Event:** Meeting of Former 1540 Experts and Outreach to South African Academia
- Date and Venue:** 26-29 May 2015, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, South Africa
- Organizers:** Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Participants:** The Republic of Korea, UNODA, 1540 Group of Experts, Former Members of the 1540 Group of Experts, ISS

1. Objectives for the participation of 1540 Committee Experts

Participate in the meeting of former 1540 Experts, make appropriate presentations, and moderate various sessions.

2. Background

Resolution 1977 (2011) invited the 1540 Committee “to consider developing, in close cooperation with relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations and other United Nations bodies, ways to utilize and maintain expertise, including, in particular, of former experts of the group, that could be made available for specific missions and assistance needs regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Also, as outlined in the 1540 Committee’s Programme of Work, the Committee will “consider and seize opportunities, as appropriate, for direct interaction, with their States’ consent, with relevant industries and industry groups, academia and civil society”. In terms of the objectives of outreach activities envisaged for the 10th Anniversary Year of the adoption the resolution, the holding of a meeting of former 1540 experts was identified as an activity to be held.

In a letter dated 27 April 2015, the ISS invited the Chair of the 1540 Committee and the 1540 Experts supporting the work of the Committee, to participate in a meeting of former 1540 Experts, which held from 28-29 May 2015 in Cape Town. The purpose of the meeting, according to the ISS, was to “provide a platform enabling former 1540 Committee Experts to contribute to an accurate appraisal of collective efforts aimed at facilitating the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States, taking into account achievements so far, challenges faced and possible options for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness.” The meeting is also a contribution to the 2016 Comprehensive Review of resolution 1540 (2004).

In addition, the Coordinator of the 1540 Group of Experts was invited by some Universities in South Africa to host talks on resolution 1540 (2004).

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.

3. **Highlights and discussions**

In the meeting, 12 of the 18 former 1540 experts participated, and they produced discussion papers for the meeting.

In addition to opening remarks by the ISS, UNODA and the Coordinator of the Group of Experts, the Republic of Korea also made some opening remarks, wherein their Ambassador accredited to South Africa, highlighted some of the achievements of their tenure in chairing the 1540 Committee and the usefulness of the matrix a good reference tool.

UNODA also provided an update of their activities in support of the implementation of the resolution, and the Coordinator of the 1540 Group of Experts gave an overview of the current activities of the Group.

The meeting focussed on nine panel discussions on: Co-operation with international, regional and sub-regional organisations; Assistance and capacity-building; Civil society and non-governmental organisations; Private sector and industry; Identification of effective practices; 1540 machinery; Tools of the 1540 Committee (Matrix, legislative database, visits to States, etc.); Transparency, communication and outreach, and; Resolution 1540 (2004) and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security culture.

The meeting of former experts provided a unique forum where former 1540 experts shared their perspectives and valuable insights on most of the critical issues being dealt with by the Committee.

In the margins of the former expert meeting, the Coordinator of the 1540 Group of Experts was invited by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, and the Cape Town Component of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), at the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town, University of Cape Town, to give talks on resolution 1540 (2004), with specific reference to the interrelationship between the Biological Weapons Convention, life sciences and the resolution.

4. **Additional Comments**

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