

Information Note¹

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1540 Committee experts

Event: Effective Practices in Implementation of UNSCR 1540 - Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)

Organizer: Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre's (RACVIAC) Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

Date and Venue: 29 - 30 June 2015, Rakitje, Croatia

Participants: *RACVIAC Members, Associate Members and Observers:* Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Croatia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo representatives, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, and USA

N entities, international/regional organizations, and other non-governmental organizations: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Organization United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), and 1540 Committee experts.

Objectives of Participation of 1540 experts:

- Make a presentation on the key elements of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP) ;
- Moderate discussions on the development and adoption of voluntary NAPs;
- Participate and contribute to the discussions regarding Member States experience, lessons learned and national effective practices on the development, adoption and implementation of their NAPs, as well as their national assistance needs;
- Raise awareness of available regional activities in relation to voluntary NAPs;

Background

- Resolution 1540 (2004) requires all States to take and enforce, inter alia, 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

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controls over related materials. On 20 April 2011, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1977 in which the Security Council encourages all States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of Resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee. Furthermore, through Resolution 1977 (2011) the Security Council requests that the 1540 Committee, with the support of a group of experts, identifies effective practices, templates and guidance, with a view to developing a compilation of such documents.

- On 24 April, RACVIAC invited the 1540 Chair to send representatives of the Committee and the Group of Experts to participate in the seminar on Voluntary National Implementation Plans for UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

Highlights and Assessment

The workshop was opened by Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Ms Nelija Vrčina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Croatia, Mr. Gennady Lutay, 1540 Committee expert and Mr. Nils Schmieder, UNODA. They all stressed the importance of efforts by Member States to implement resolution 1540 (2004), especially, the decisions by a number of them to draft and adopt voluntary national implementation action plans (NAPs), including establishing priorities in implementing their obligations under the resolution 1540 (2004).

A 1540 expert provided an overview of the key elements of voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP), as well as an update on the status of implementation of the UNSC resolution 1540 (2004), including in the OSCE region, and an overview of the concept of regional PoC's training.

The workshop brought together technical experts and officials from Member States, directly engaged in the implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the representatives of relevant international and regional organisations. The meeting provided a forum for an interactive discussion of key elements of a voluntary National Implementation Action Plan (NAP), provided an opportunity to participants to share their experiences and lessons learned in the development, adoption and implementation of NAP, raise awareness of available regional activities in that regard. The workshop demonstrated great value of a voluntary NAP as an effective tool to improve inter-agency coordination in the implementation of resolution 1540 at the national level.

Additional comments

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