

Information Note¹

- Event:** 15th International Export Control Conference
- Date and venue:** 2-4 November 2016, Prague, Czech Republic
- Organisers:** Canada, Czech Republic and United States of America
- Participants:** *States:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam
- Other:* Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Kosovo
- Intergovernmental Organizations:* European Union (EU), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Organization of American States (OAS), World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations (UN)
- Export Control Organizations:* Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)
- NGOs, Academic and Industry Institutions:* Deloitte, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Future Forces Forum, General Electric, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, King's College London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), NU Borders, Research Center for the Problem of Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, University of Georgia, Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control

1. **Background**

The Chair of the Committee received an invitation to participate in the 15th International Export Conference, which was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 2 - 4 November 2016. According to the invitation letter, this biennial conference brought together “export control practitioners

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.

primarily involved in policy, licensing, and enforcement in order to promote the development of national strategic trade management and related border control systems that meet international standards”. The topic of the Conference was “Interagency Partnerships and International Alliances in Achieving Compliance and Enforcement of Strategic Trade Controls”.

2. **Highlights of discussions**

The conference comprised an opening session, presentations on specific topics, including on the proliferation threat, trends in strategic trade controls; roundtables on whole of government approach, industry outreach, commodity related expertise, sources of information and building sustainable partnerships. Furthermore, breakout sessions were held on free trade zones and industry outreach. Also, a table top exercise was held on building targeted capabilities in relation to industry participation, and compliance.

Mr. S Limage, US Deputy Assistance Secretary of State for Non-Proliferation Programs at the Department of State, recalled in his opening remarks the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) that placed an obligation on States to have in place export controls. He referred to the success of the resolution in improving efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, including the abuse of legitimate trade and scientific cooperation for proliferation purposes. He emphasised that mutual adherence to strategic trade controls is a key component in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

During the sessions, speakers highlighted the following:

- The need for commodity identification training.
- The evolving nature of export controls in a changing security, technological, scientific and economic environment through the increasing relevance of non-state actors, easier spread of technologies and the rise of global value chains in dual-use industries.
- There are no one-size-fits all models for dual-use export control items and there is a need for a tailor made solution.
- Emphasis on government, industry and academia cooperation on non-proliferation.
- Value of cooperation among various governments entities (multi-agency cooperation / whole of government approach).
- The value of industry outreach programmes to non-proliferation efforts.
- Need for industry outreach to be targeted, proactive and reactive.
- Role of data analysis / scientific input, including trade analysis, in contributing to investigations and enforcement of export controls.
- Data visualisation to transform vast quantities of data into an easily understandable tool for trend analysis.
- Challenge of determining the control status of goods in a limited time frame.
- Need for coordination between national export control regimes with national proliferation finance regimes.
- Value of the World Customs Organization’s National Customs Enforcement Network (nCEN) that includes a database on seizures, offences, suspected persons and a database on companies, which facilitates analysis and regional and international cooperation.

- Free trade zones and the growth of transshipment are regarded as weak links in the international trading system in the context of enforcing the obligations of resolution 1540 (2004).

The 1540 Expert made a presentation on recent developments on resolution 1540 (2004) and implementation trends on strategic trade controls, as derived from the matrices. Furthermore, the expert participated in the breakout group discussions on free trade zones and industry compliance, where the obligations on controlling transit and transshipments and recommendations on working with industry in terms of the resolution were brought up in the discussions.

3. **Additional Comments**

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