

# Information Note<sup>1</sup>

- Event:** **Fourth Annual Workshop on Reducing the Risk from Radioactive and Nuclear Materials**
- Organized by:** The Institute of Nuclear Materials Management (INMM)
- Date and Venue:** 2 – 3 February 2010, Arlington, VA, USA
- Participants:** *States:* The US Departments of Energy (including the National Nuclear Security Administration), Homeland Security, State, the Government Accountability Office, the US Strategic Command, the Atomic Energy Commission of Egypt, the Atomic Energy Commission of Finland (STUK), and the governments of Austria and Canada.  
*Other Expertise:* Representatives from quasi-government and other institutions included the Argonne, Brookhaven, Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore, Pacific Northwest, Sandia, and Savannah River, and national laboratories. Representatives from civil society and industry included the Hertz Foundation, Belfer Center, Center for Nonproliferation Studies, the Henry L. Stimson, Canberra Industries, International Services and Advisors Inc, QSA Global Inc, SAIC, Systems Planning Corporation, and Weatherford International.

## 1. Objectives

- Gather information on best practices and challenges related to illicit nuclear trafficking and new real-time tracking technologies
- Gather information on the prospective Nuclear Security Summit and the NPT Review
- Increase understanding of industry's leadership role in implementing resolution 1540 (2004)

## 2. Background

This is one of several events held throughout the year by the INMM that relates to the work of the 1540 Committee. The INMM brings together experts from government, industry, and academia to discuss and promote research on practical issues and measures on nuclear materials. Representatives from the 1540 Committee have worked with the INMM in its workshops since 2004, when Ambassador Motoc of Romania and UK delegate Samantha (then) Purdy addressed the group, onward.

## 3. Highlights

- Incidents of nuclear smuggling have decreased recently, and have involved smaller amounts of material. Governments also have had success in prosecuting nuclear smuggling cases. Nonetheless, participants agreed that the threat remains high for several reasons. The various data sources indicating a decline in incidents face problems of under-reporting, selection bias and a high noise to signal ratio. Participants also noted an increase in the number of real buyers and repeat offenders;

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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 significant amounts of recovered material that was not reported missing, has been missing for a decade, or represented a sample of larger material caches; continued vulnerability of facilities and large amounts of materials still known to be missing; limited trans-border cooperation; and sustained involvement of terrorist organizations.

- In addition, a very large number of sources (in at least the tens of thousands) are in circulation each year, with considerable variation in their security from theft or diversion. Unfortunately, the international community only has a recovery rate of about 65% for stolen sources, mostly in-country and not at borders (although detection of such transfers is believed to have increased).
- Based on the discussions at this meeting and some follow-on analysis, the INMM will prepare a set of recommendations on transportation security for nuclear materials and best practices in countering illicit nuclear trafficking for the Nuclear Security Summit and for their annual meeting being held in Baltimore, MD, this summer.
- The US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) received a significant increase in funds proposed in the 2011 budget for its nonproliferation activities (more than 25%), much of which will go to implementation of 1540-related measures in the United States and around the world.
- While the range of discussion topics and the outcome communiqué are being negotiated, it appears that the 12-13 April 2009 Nuclear Security Summit will have an informal side-event organized by NGOs on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and a more formal industry event on the 14<sup>th</sup>. States already have expressed interest in holding a follow-on event in the coming years.

#### 4. **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)