

Information Note ¹

- Event:** Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual Use Goods and Conventional Weapons Through Information Sharing
- Organizers:** Government of Turkmenistan, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
- Date and Venue:** 13-15 March 2012, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- Participants:** *States:* Interagency delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, USA
- International organizations:* OSCE, WCO, 1540 Committee expert
- Civil society:* independent researchers

Objectives for a 1540 Committee expert participation

- Provide a follow-up to the 27-28 January 2011 *OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)* by offering the participants the possibility to exchange practices and share experiences in addressing the strategic trade complexities;
- Promote the best practices in implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) related to export control and trans-shipment;
- Provide the opportunity for the participants to discuss the necessity of sharing information on all levels of strategic trade including inter agency and international cooperation.

Background

The workshop was one in a series of events aimed at enhancing capability of states to fight the trafficking of strategic dual-use materials and goods including WMD-related. The previous workshop took place in Malta in January 2012 mainly involving the states of the Balkans and Mediterranean.

Highlights

¹For information, not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the views of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers and participants of the workshop.

The opening remarks were made by the representative of Turkmenistan's government, by the Head of the OSCE Office in Ashgabat, and by the Senior Border Issues Adviser of the OSCE. They noted that the focus of the workshop was primarily on the main elements of export controls, customs and capacity building measures that are essential for enhancing the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Inviting the customs services and the licensing officers from different states of the region the organizers of the workshop stressed their intent to involve them into interactive dialogue and information sharing to facilitate inter-agency and international cooperation in the field of export control and licensing.

The workshop in Ashgabat was useful highlighting the measures taken by states of Central Asia that lowered the risk of leakage of WMD related materials including illicit smuggling. It also provided additional information on new achievements in methods and procedures applied by enforcement agencies for identifying illegal flows of dual-use goods and materials.

The discussions at the workshop confirmed that even if the legislative framework looks adequate, law enforcement, border and export/import controls remain the most challenging areas in Central Asia. In this regard, the need to upgrade the capacities of law enforcement agencies is still a major issue that could be resolved by additional efforts at the national level and with technical assistance and training programs provided by donor states and international organizations.

Additional Comments

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