

Information Note¹

- Event:** Workshop for Countries of Central Asia - The Contribution of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) to Regional and Global Disarmament and Non-Proliferation -10th Anniversary of UNSCR 1540 (2004)
- Organizers:** The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan in cooperation with United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
- Date and Venue:** 11-12 March 2014, Astana, Kazakhstan
- Participants:** *Central Asia States:* Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
Other States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Mongolia, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States
Other: State of Palestine
International organizations: Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), European Union (EU), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
1540 Committee: one member of the Committee and one expert

1. Background

The workshop was convened to mark the tenth anniversary of resolution 1540 (2004) and was focused on the contribution of this resolution to regional and global disarmament and non-proliferation. The Government of Kazakhstan invited the Chair of the 1540 Committee and one of the Group of Experts to participate in the event and to make presentations on the implementation of the resolution and moderate panel discussions.

The workshop is one of a series of seminars organized in recent years in Central Asia to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Many of these events contributed to the joint efforts to counter international terrorism and illegal trafficking in weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials. Kazakhstan plays an active role in supporting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The regional workshop in Astana in September 2011 became a milestone enhancing practical activities aimed at assisting States of the OSCE region, and Central Asia in particular, to meet the requirements of the resolution effectively. The Government of Kazakhstan made a financial donation to the UN Trust Fund for the purpose of the implementation of the resolution.

Previous activities of the 1540 Committee experts in Central Asia included participation in: the workshop for Central Asian Countries on Non-Proliferation and International Legal Cooperation

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against Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Terrorism, organized by UNODC and OSCE, jointly with the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) (1-3 December 2009, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan), 2nd expert meeting (29-30 March 2011, Dushanbe, Tajikistan) and 3rd expert meeting (21-22 July 2011, Almaty, Kazakhstan). The events were organized in the framework of the project launched by CTITF and the EU and coordinated by UNRCCA aimed at assisting Central Asian States to devise a regional plan of action to implement the UN Counter-Terrorism strategy.

2. **Highlights of the Discussions**

A 1540 Committee member delivered a message from the Chair of the Committee noting that a key focus for this event was to explore ways to enhance further the Committee's role as an assistance facilitator to better respond to the requests from Member States. He said that the importance of assistance cannot be overstated as it allows States to strengthen national capabilities to implement their obligations, and to lay the foundation for improved mechanisms for sharing effective practices and promoting their collaboration with relevant international organizations. He also stressed that initiatives taken by States themselves play an increasingly important role. He said that it is encouraging that some States are ready to seek new forms of collaboration and are open to new ideas and suggestions.

Participating States and the representatives of international organisations made presentations and conducted valuable and interactive discussions to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). They had a good opportunity to get firsthand information on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in different countries, on existing achievements and gaps in this regard, as well as on the activities of the 1540 Committee and international bodies assisting in implementation of the resolution. Participants of the workshop exchanged their views on the prevention of proliferation of sensitive materials which can be used in creation of weapons of mass destruction. In this regard they discussed ways and means which may help to identify some specific needs and forms of possible assistance requests.

3. **Chair's summary of the workshop**

The Chair of the workshop, the Government of Kazakhstan, prepared a summary (at <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/transparency-and-outreach/outreach-events/>) reflecting the issues which were raised during the meetings including some unofficial recommendations for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

4. **Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee's group of experts by email at 1540experts@un.org