

Information Note¹

- Event:** Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004)
- Organizers:** UNODA and the Conflict Prevention Center of the OSCE, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with funding from the Governments of Norway and the United States of America
- Date and Venue:** 27-29 September 2011, Astana, Kazakhstan
- Participants:** *Central Asia states:* Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
Other states: Norway, United States
Other: European Union
International organizations and other entities: Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) through video-communication, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretariat and Field Operations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Health Organization (WHO), 1540 Committee experts
Civil society: CITS, NTI, Stimson Center, VERTIC

1. Objectives

- Promote capacity-building to enhance full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of resolution 1977 (2011);
- Follow-up on discussions with representatives of Central Asia States on the ways and means to enhance border and export controls, to encourage experience sharing in related areas and to identify the specific capacity building measures that meet national requirements;
- Obtain updated information on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004);
- Discuss actions to be considered by States, such as the submission of more detailed reports on the status of implementation and/or a voluntary summary action plan mapping out priorities and plans for implementing resolution 1540 (2004);

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.

- Expand the network of working contacts.

2. Background

All Central Asia States have submitted their initial reports to the 1540 Committee, and some of them have subsequently submitted additional information. However, the latest information submitted to the 1540 Committee dates back to 2007. All matrices of Central Asia States are posted on the website of the 1540 Committee, with the exception of the Matrix for Uzbekistan. The data gathered in the 1540 Matrices for Central Asia States let appear a low number of measures reported to / identified by the 1540 Committee in many of the areas of implementation of resolution 1540. One State of the region has submitted a request for assistance, in 2004, through its report to the 1540 Committee.

3. Highlights

Opening statements

Opening statements were delivered by representatives of Kazakhstan, UNDP, UNODA, OSCE, Norway and the United States, and by a 1540 Committee expert.

Presentations by the 1540 Committee experts

A 1540 Committee expert delivered a presentation on “Trade Facilitation and Security”, highlighting that efforts to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction should not hinder international trade in strategic goods. The expert explained that, by adopting domestic control mechanisms, States establish themselves as reliable international partners that can be trusted as responsible exporters or importers of strategic goods, expanding their business contacts and facilitating trade with new suppliers, who otherwise could be reluctant to sell their items to destinations of questionable reliability. The 1540 Committee expert mentioned efforts from Central Asia States with international partners, such as the United States, the EU, the CIS or the SCO, to mitigate the proliferation threat. The 1540 Committee expert underscored that the issue should be addressed in the wider context of regional cooperation: political parameters among States in the region should not reduce effectiveness of such cooperation at the practical level.

A 1540 Committee expert delivered a presentation on the “Status of implementation of resolution 1540 and challenges”, giving an overview of implementation at the global level, based on data and analysis from the 2011 report of the 1540 Committee to the Security Council, before focusing on the implementation of the resolution in Central Asia, on the basis of aggregated data for the five States of the region. The expert highlighted that 1540 Matrices for Central Asia States reflect that: on OP 2 of the resolution, fewer States have measures in place to prohibit activities such as development, or transport of weapons of mass destruction, and fewer measures in the area of enforcement than in the area of legal framework; on OP 3 (a) and (b), fewer States have measures in the chemical and biological areas than in the nuclear area; on OP 3 (c) and (d), no measure was identified to control providing funds or transportation services, and few measures were identified on control of brokering and on control lists, inter alia.

A 1540 Committee expert delivered a presentation on “national action plans and assistance templates, highlighting relevant aspects of resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011) and describing the role of the 1540 Committee, supported by its experts, to facilitate match-making between requests and offers of assistance, including through such means as visits to States, at the invitation of the State concerned, assistance templates, action plans or other information

submitted to the Committee. Underlining the voluntary nature of national action plans, the expert mentioned national action plans already submitted to the Committee (Argentina, Canada, United States at the time of the workshop²). The 1540 Committee expert presented the assistance template designed by the 1540 Committee, which States may use to submit assistance requests.

Presentations by states, by international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and by NGOs

Representatives of Central Asia states informed on legislative and enforcement measures their governments take to combat proliferation of WMD and related materials to meet the requirements of the resolution. By now all these states have developed export control lists related to nuclear, chemical and biological materials. It was noted, however, that conversion of existing laws and regulations into practice requires additional efforts, first of all by strengthening border controls, establishing modern detection equipment and enhancing professional training of customs officers and officials concerned with strategic trade and security.

Representatives of the United States and of Norway shared their national experience in several relevant areas, such as national efforts to involve the private sector and the academia.

Representatives of participating international, regional and sub-regional organizations delivered presentations on their relevant programs and activities that can contribute to facilitate the implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004).

Participating NGOs also briefed the audience.

4. Bilateral consultations

The 1540 Committee experts met with delegations of the five Central Asia states to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

5. Additional comments

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

² Since the workshop, France joined the list of States having submitted a national action plan