

## Information Note <sup>1</sup>

<b>Event</b>	Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004)
<b>Date and Venue</b>	24-25 October 2013, Athens, Georgia, US
<b>Organizers</b>	CITS Security and Strategic Trade Management Academy (SSTMA), University of Georgia
<b>Participants</b>	Students from governments of the following: States Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United States  Visiting Speakers: US 1540 Deputy Coordinator, US Department of State; 1540 Committee Expert

### **Background**

- The organisers of the workshop invited a representative of the 1540 Committee group of experts to participate and contribute in the upcoming session of their biannual Security & Strategic Trade Management Academy.
- The SSTMA is a two-week comprehensive training course on regulating trade in WMD-relevant dual-use technologies. This practitioner-orientated academy is designed to help government officials and industry representatives understand the international proliferation and threat environment. The training course also has a specific focus on helping participating officials with the challenges of developing, implementing and enforcing policies and procedures that fulfil the export control related obligations under UNSCR 1540. It is also intended to support States in training their core staff responsible for reporting to the 1540 Committee (<http://cits.uga.edu/post/academy>).
- Representatives of the group of experts have contributed to this training course before.
- Approximately 580 attendees from 35 countries have attended the course so far. The event provided a good opportunity to reach out and interact with the participants from various government agencies from different States studying at the Academy and involved in the implementation of the resolution.

### **Objectives for 1540 expert participation**

- Provide an update on UNSCR 1540 implementation, latest Committee activities and focus on the export control and strategic trade related aspects of UNSCR 1540.

---

<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 of the event

- Give trainees detailed and practical advice on how to use the “1540 tool box”, e.g. how to report, how to request assistance or the concept of voluntary national action plans.

### **Highlights**

The **US 1540 Deputy Coordinator** in her presentation reminded the participants of the basic provisions of resolution 1540 and its role as a major tool for facilitating cooperation among UN Member States in countering the global threat of WMD proliferation and the potential acquisition of such weapons by non-state actors, in particular for terrorist purposes.

The speaker emphasized the role the United States play in support for 1540 related activities. This support is based on two primary responsibilities:

- 1) The US government must coordinate its own activities to ensure that its laws and regulations meet the requirement of the resolution, helping to keep sensitive materials out of the hands of terrorists and other criminals while preserving legitimate commercial and peaceful uses of related materials.
- 2) The United States helps other states implement their obligations through bilateral partnership and through support to international bodies.

The speaker mentioned that to this end the 2013 US National Report includes a comprehensive update of US laws, policies, projects, initiatives and effective practices in place to prevent illicit WMD trafficking;

The **1540 Committee expert** in his presentation noted that the use of chemical weapons in Syria and an abortive attempt to blow up the chemical weapons storage facility in Kirov region (north-east of Moscow) amply demonstrated the need for intensifying joint efforts to fight proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In this regard the 1540 Committee has activated its work with States on a bilateral level. In recent months a series of meetings took place between the members of the Committee and the experts on one side and representatives of different missions of non-reporting States in New York on the other.

Speaking about recent activities by the Committee the expert noted that the matrix form for reporting has also been revised to make it more user-friendly. He demonstrated the new matrix form and explained how to complete it. He explained the important role voluntary national action plans play in establishing priorities and identifying gaps in existing legislation and enforcement activities.

The **Representative of SSTMA (Senior Fellow)** spoke of the enforcement agencies’ role, especially customs, in the implementation of resolution 1540. He noted that for decades customs were not focusing on control of dual-use goods collecting revenues and concentrating their work on placing barriers on the way of illegal trafficking in arms, drugs and contraband merchandise.

However, the expert noted that the rise of terrorism and attempts of non-state actors to gain access to weapons of mass destruction as well as wide spread of new technologies and communications resulted in the need for re-examining the role of

customs and enforcement agencies in regulating strategic trade.

Adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) stimulated many countries to take more steps to fill the existing gaps and achieve the goal of full implementation of the resolution. On the one hand States had to adopt or update their legislation on accountability, security and physical protection of materials related to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. On the other, to develop and bring into practice specific measures to impose stricter control on their exports and imports to prevent unauthorized access to WMD-related materials.

**Conclusion.** During the workshop its participants were involved into an interactive discussion aimed at experience-sharing, exchange of ideas and question and answer sessions. The workshop contributed to awareness-raising on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 among students and research fellows of the Academy. They had a good opportunity to get first hand information on existing achievements and gaps in its implementation, on the latest activities of the 1540 Committee, states and international bodies assisting in implementation of the resolution.

**Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee's group of experts by email at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)