

Information Note¹

Prepared by Gennady Lutay,
1540 Committee expert

- Event:** The Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts
- Organizer:** Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) States Parties and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU)
- Date and Venue:** 10 – 14 August 2015, Geneva, Switzerland
- Participants:** Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

UN entities, international/regional organizations, and other non-governmental organizations (observers) :

The United Nations 1540 Committee Group of Experts, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):

The European Union, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International

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Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE);

13 non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

Objectives of Participation of 1540 expert:

- Make a statement in a plenary session on the key elements of the implementation of the UNSCR 1540;
- To raise awareness of participating Member States of the experience, lessons learned and national effective practices in the implementation of the UNSCR 1540, highlighting the complementarity of the implementation of the resolution and the BWC;
- Engage with the participants on the issues relevant to the effective implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004), as well as on the roles of different agencies and non-governmental organisations involved in this process;
- To have preliminary discussion with BWC–ISU regarding possible arrangements for the participation of the 1540 Committee’s Chair in the Meeting of BWC States Parties in December 2015;
- To take the opportunity while in Geneva to meet the 1540 Point of Contact and other interested staff at the World Health Organisation to discuss future plans.

Background

The 2015 BWC Meeting of Experts was the fourth in a series of four years of meetings in the third inter-sessional process of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC/BTWC). The third inter-sessional process was agreed at the Seventh BWC Review Conference that was held in December 2011. This Meeting of Experts will be followed by a Meeting of States Parties on 14-18 December 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Overview

The 1540 expert gave a presentation on synergy between and complementarity of the UNSCR 1540 (2004) and the Biological Weapons Convention, providing an update on the status of implementation of the UNSCR 1540 (2004).

The 1540 expert had a preliminary discussion with the BWC – ISU regarding possible arrangements between the 1540 Committee and the BWC – ISU regarding the Meeting of the BWC States Parties in December 2015.

In the margins of the workshop the 1540 Committee expert conducted consultations with the representatives of the WHO on cooperation in the provision of assistance to Member States.

Additional Comments

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