

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

- Event:** Regional Workshop for South-East Europe on the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)
- Date and Venue:** 1-2 November 2011; Belgrade, Serbia
- Organizers:** Jointly by UNODA (Geneva) and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with support from the European Union Joint Action on the Biological Weapons Convention
- Participants:** *States:* Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); United Kingdom (governmental speaker).  
*International and other organisations:* BWC-Implementation Support Unit; EU Joint Action Implementation Group, UNODA (Geneva); European Union (representative in Serbia); 1540 Committee expert.  
*Academia and non-governmental organisations:* Department of Microbiology and Genetics, Darmstadt University of Technology; Harvard-Sussex Program, SPRU, University of Sussex; Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Verification Research, Technology and Information Centre (VERTIC).

### 1. Objectives

- In the context of the Final Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Conference, make a presentation on support of the BWC through resolution 1540 (2004), identifying complementary measures that States consider when implementing both instruments.
- Identify measures and practices that participating States have adopted, or might consider adopting, in the biological area when implementing the BWC and resolution 1540 (2004).
- Dialogue with States for updates on their implementation of BWC and resolution 1540 (2004).
- Continue dialogue with the host country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on further implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including its 2008 request for assistance on a national action plan.
- Become more aware of preparation and issues of the 7th Review Conference mutually beneficial to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

### 2. Background

This workshop took place under the auspices of the European Union Joint Action on the Biological Weapons Convention, in particular the Action's Project IV to conduct activities 'Supporting the BWC Intersessional Process'. This Project includes workshops which discuss preparation for the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Review Conference of the BWC, to be held in Geneva, 5-22 December 2011. The workshop in Serbia was also among several regional workshops held under this Joint Action to which 1540 experts have attended, the others in Nigeria (27-29 October 2010), Moldova (22-24 June 2011), Philippines (27 June-1 July 2011), and Peru (9-11 November).

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<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 in the event.

### **3. Highlights**

The workshop brought together government officials from the region to address issues and themes at the forthcoming 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference. In particular, the workshop was structured into discussion sessions, led by facilitators from academia and non-governmental organizations, on the following themes, among those to be addressed at the Conference in December:

- the BWC and 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference;
- national implementation and confidence building measures (CBMs);
- compliance and verification;
- cooperation, coordination and assistance;
- science and technology;
- intersessional work programme and the Implementation Support Unit (ISU).

The sessions aimed to encourage participating States to become more aware of the topics to be covered in December and prepare to take an active role accordingly. All States participants had attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Conference (20 November-8 December 2006). The President-designate of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference addressed the workshop on issues due to arise at the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference.<sup>2</sup>

The Final Declaration of the 2006 Sixth Review Conference recognized that full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 by all States can contribute to achieving the objectives of the BWC, that resolution 1540 is consistent with the provisions of the BWC, and that information provided to the UN by States in accordance with the resolution may provide a useful resource for States Parties in fulfilling their obligations under Article IV of the BWC. In this context, the 1540 Committee expert highlighted that: measures required by OP 3 of resolution 1540 add specificity to the BWC's Article IV requirement; implementation of the BWC and of resolution 1540 is not intended to hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes; States submitting the BWC's CBM (Form E) to report legislation taken to implement the Convention can also consider including it in additional information submitted to the 1540 Committee, as per paragraphs 6 and 7 of resolution 1977 (2011), which extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee; and universality of the BWC is supported by resolution 1540 (para 8a).

Regarding practices on controls on exports and related measures required by resolution 1540, the OSCE Handbook chapter on export controls was mentioned as a reference for States in this region. Also, State participants noted when drafting export control legislation that they took into account the EU Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 concerning the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items.

### **4. Bilateral consultations**

The 1540 Committee expert provided 1540 Committee matrices to each participating delegation and conducted dialogue on the State's implementation of resolution 1540 and possible next steps, including on a national action plan by the host country on its implementation of resolution 1540.

### **5. Additional comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).

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<sup>2</sup> Documentation for the BWC 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference, including the President-designate's page, is on the web at [www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/F1CD974A1FDE4794C125731A0037D96D?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/F1CD974A1FDE4794C125731A0037D96D?OpenDocument).